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| F R O M | Name & Title | Mary Beth Haller, Esq., Acting Commissioner | Health Department AGENCY REPORT |  |
| | Agency Name & Address | Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201 | | |
| | Subject/ Position | 23-0418 – Tobacco Products - Tobacco Product Use in Stadiums - Prohibition FAVORABLE | | |

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

September 22, 2023

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 23-0418, entitled “Tobacco Products - Tobacco Product Use in Stadiums - Prohibition.” This ordinance would prohibit the use of tobacco or nicotine products in stadiums, including but not limited to cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, and chewing tobacco. The ordinance would apply to all professional sporting events, including collegiate sporting and athletic events. The ordinance would not apply to high school or amateur sporting events for which the athletes do not receive payment.

BCHD recognizes the harmful health impacts of nicotine and tobacco use and supports efforts to discourage anyone – especially youth – from using tobacco and nicotine. BCHD’s Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program provides smoking cessation services, community education, school-based projects, and enforcement of retailer compliance with tobacco control ordinances. Additionally, our Bureau of Maternal and Child Health educates birthing parents and families about the importance of not smoking while pregnant and the harms of secondhand smoke on all family members, particularly infants and children.

While enforcement of this bill might be challenging, we believe that signage in the stadiums and other relevant locations will be an effective deterrent. Tobacco and nicotine use are harmful to public health, and young people in particular should be discouraged from using tobacco and should be protected from secondhand smoke. This ordinance would bring Baltimore City into accordance with other jurisdictions that have already taken similar measures. As such, BCHD requests a **favorable** position on Council Bill 23-0418.