


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0527 – Food Service Facilities - Public Notice of Suspensions, Revocations, and Non-renewals		

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

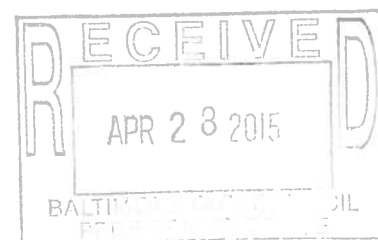
April 28, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0527 – Food Service Facilities - Public Notice of Suspensions, Revocations, and Non-renewals. The purpose of this bill is to require a food service facility that has had its license suspended to post a notice on the premises stating the reason for the suspension. The bill also requires the Health Department to post the reason for suspension on two forms of social media and to maintain a listing on the Department’s website of food facilities that have had their licenses suspended, revoked, or denied and the reason for the action.

This bill will enable the general public to know the particular reason that a food facility license has been suspended by the Department. Currently, when a restaurant is closed by the Department, the public may not know the specific reason for the closure. This bill would support governmental transparency by informing the public of the specific reasons for the Department’s actions. The Health Department has worked with the bill sponsor in drafting the bill and is confident we can meet the bills requirements within our current operations.

BCHD supports this legislation and appreciates the opportunity to discuss this important issue. We will be present at the hearing to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Rianna Matthews-Brown, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Andrew Nicklas, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Health



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