



F R O M	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 10-0446- Public Ethics Law – Clarifications and Expanded Coverage		

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

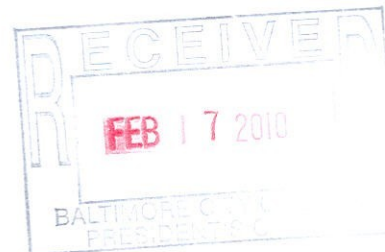
February 10, 2010

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to support Council Bill 10-0446. The purpose of the bill is to redefine and clarify prohibited acts, required disclosures, and other ethics regulation, as well as expand the scope of current applicable prohibitions in the City's Ethics Code. This bill intends to correct, conform, and clarify provisions of the ethics code that relate to the public sector. BCHD, and all of its related organizations, support this bill and its intent.

The BCHD has reviewed this legislation and do not believe there are any conflicts with current state and federal requirements that would prevent us from complying with this bill's regulations. Therefore, we are pleased to support Council Bill 10-0446, and all efforts to strengthen the Baltimore City Ethics Code. This bill better defines the rules and regulations for public servants, calling for them to disqualify themselves in any matter in which they are personally party to. Additionally, this bill would prohibit the acceptance or solicitation of any gifts, whether on the public servant's own behalf or on behalf of another person, from any person who does or seeks to do business of any kind with their agency. BCHD supports this bill, as well as any other steps undertaken by the Mayor and City Council to strengthen public trust in city government. BCHD's current code of ethics already requires the agency to comply with the current State and City Ethic Financial Disclosure Policy and all other City Ethics Policies. This bill would help guard against improper influence or even the appearance of improper influence, and ensure public trust in the government, and BCHD fully supports these efforts.

BCHD looks forward to the opportunity to implement City Council Bill 10-0446.

CC: Angela Gibson



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