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| 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 10-0489 - Miscellaneous Offenses - Citation and Penalty Amounts | | |

To: President and Members
409 City Hall

May 10, 2010

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) has reviewed Council Bill 10-0489- Miscellaneous Offenses, Citation and Penalty Amounts. This bill proposes to modify the amount of the penalties imposed for certain environmental, civil and criminal penalties applicable to certain health and police ordinance offenses.

This bill increases the penalties for nuisance offenses that fall under title 5 of the health code, and tobacco offenses under title 12, including the sale of unpackaged cigarettes. These are the only provisions over which BCHD has jurisdiction. Baltimore City's minority populations are disproportionately affected by tobacco-related illnesses, and the Health Department supports this legislation, and all efforts to deter the sale of flavored tobacco wrappings and the illegal sale and use of tobacco products. Enforcement of tobacco control laws has resulted in the collection of significant revenues from citations, and the increased fees suggested by this bill would be consistent with similar fees in the city code.

The Health Department supports successful passage of Council Bill 10-0489, and will be participating in the hearing process to provide any public health data that might be necessary in making an informed decision.

CC: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Christopher Thomascutty, Deputy Mayor
Rachel Indek, Legislative Director, Department of Health

