CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

DR. DWAYNE B. THOMAS, PhD., Interim Director DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING 3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park Baltimore, Maryland 21217 410-396-6132

February 22, 2010

Honorable President Bernard Young Members of the City Council Baltimore City Council 100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

> RE: **Council Bill # 10-0445**

Public Ethics Law - Ethics Board Composition, Tenure, etc. - Ethics

Training

Dear President Young:

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is submitting its support for Council Bill #10-0445. The purpose of this bill is to reconstitute the Baltimore City Board of Ethics; providing for the Board's composition and qualifications, tenure and removal of its members. This bill will also require the board to submit certain annual and special reports and expand mandatory ethics training to encompass certain boards, commissions, and other multi-member entities.

BCRP is encouraged by this legislation's aim to reinforce the quality of the Baltimore City Board of Ethics through changes to its composition as well as member qualifications, training and staggering the tenure of those who will serve. This bill enhances clarity and provides guidance and controls that will encourage board and commission members to operate according to the ethics rules and regulations of the City of Baltimore. This legislation will promote transparency and a sense of equity in the selection process.

Again, the Department of Recreation and Parks supports Council Bill # 10-0445.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Dwayne B. Thomas, Ph.D.

Interim Director

DBT:VSO

Cc: Angela Gibson, Liaison to City Council



