



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0067R – Informational Hearing – Intergenerational Recreation Centers		

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

October 11, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0067R Informational Hearing – Intergenerational Recreation Centers. The purpose of this bill is to discuss recreational and enrichment programming for both seniors and children and discuss the possibility of creating intergenerational recreation centers in Baltimore. The bill also seeks to explore expansion of intergenerational programming that benefits Baltimoreans of all ages.

Intergenerational Recreation Centers offer youth and older adult programming concurrently at the same facility as well as offering intergenerational activities. Some of the benefits include: enhanced quality of life for participants, improved attitudes about various age groups, and breaking down barriers that inhibit different generations from interacting with one another. Intergenerational centers also provide opportunities for mentorship; older adults often serve as surrogate grandparents to youth. Additionally, these centers foster cultural respect for older adults among younger age groups.

Johns Hopkins did a study of Experience Corp several years ago. Experience Corp places older volunteers in public elementary schools in roles designed to meet schools' needs and increase the social, physical, and cognitive activity of the volunteers. The study showed that physical, cognitive, and social activity increased, suggesting the potential for the Experience Corps to improve health for an aging population and simultaneously improve educational outcomes for children

BCHD believes that Intergenerational Recreation Centers are an excellent complement to our Senior Center programming. Each provides unique and important services for our seniors. Therefore, we support this legislation and welcome the expansion of senior services. BCHD will participate at the hearing to provide any additional information.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Arnold Eppel, Director Aging and CARE Services, Department of Health
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health

