



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

February 21, 2014

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: ^{JAG} James H. Green, Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 14-306-Tobacco Products-Smoking Near Playgrounds,
Schoolyards, and Athletic Facilities

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 14-306-Tobacco Products-Smoking Near Playgrounds, Schoolyards, and Athletic Facilities and supports the prohibitions against smoking in these areas.

The BPD will continue to work with the Department of Health, Department of Recreation and the other City agencies in order to promote the overall safety and well-being of children and families by working towards reducing exposure to secondhand smoke near the City's outdoor recreational facilities. Similar legislation has been enacted in Howard County, Anne Arundel County and most recently has been introduced in Baltimore County. As discussed in the Health Department's report to the Council, it is also important to consider swimming pools in the overall discussion surrounding places where smoking should be prohibited.

Although these regulations can be enforced by park rangers and code enforcement officers, the department stands willing to assist in the overall enforcement responsibilities. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

