

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Matthew Garbark, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Infrastructure Development		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 23-0180R: Informational Hearing – Summer 2023 Baltimore City Pool Closures		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400

August 21, 2023

The Mayor's Office of Infrastructure Development (MOID) is herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0180R, Informational Hearing - Summer 2023 Baltimore City Pool Closures, the purpose of which is to: (1) report why Cherry Hill Splash Park, Lake Clifton Pool, and Patterson Park Pool have not yet opened for the 2023 season; (2) discuss the impact of these closures on City residents and the ability of the City to secure funding for future infrastructure improvements; and (3) discuss solutions to prevent future closures.

MOID respectfully defers to the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) to report on the details of specific pool repairs. While there are no current federal programs available that could support Baltimore City pools, MOID has listed a few sources below for the Council's awareness of options to secure funding for future infrastructure improvements on City pools. BCRP is already aware of and applies to these opportunities, and can speak more specifically to each grant and how they use them:

- The National Park Service sponsors the **Outdoor Recreational Grant Program**, which has Park districts as well as local government agencies apply for grants to acquire land and plan and develop recreational areas for the public. Eligible projects include swimming pools, picnic areas, campgrounds, bike and walking trails, tennis courts and soccer fields. Water facilities, restrooms and roads are constructed using funds as well as equipment purchases. Grants cover up to 50 percent of the project costs.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development has the **Community Entitlement Grants program**. Grants are available to construct, renovate or improve community swimming pools in urban areas. The Community Entitlement Grants program awards grants to cities and counties with over 50,000 and 200,000 residents respectively to fund community projects to improve economic development and the living conditions of their residents. Other eligible projects include land acquisitions, construction and rehabilitation of residential and nonresidential structures; the projects help businesses create jobs to advance economic development.
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources has the two grant opportunities.
 - **Community Parks and Playgrounds program** which provides funding to allow the State to focus on restoring existing and creating new park and green space systems in Maryland's cities and towns. The program provides flexible grants to local governments to respond to the unmet need for assistance to rehabilitate, expand or improve existing parks, create new parks, develop environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects, or purchase and install playground equipment in older neighborhoods and intensely developed areas throughout the state.

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- **Program Open Space – Local** provides \$89.2 million in grant funds to Maryland's counties and Baltimore City to acquire and develop land for public recreation and open space uses. Program Open Space - Stateside includes an additional \$10 million as a direct grant to Baltimore City for projects.

MOID is happy to respond to the Council's inquiries.

Thank you,



Matthew W. Garbark
Director, Mayor's Office of Infrastructure Development

cc: Reginald Moore, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks
Nina Themelis, Interim Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations