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| F R O M | Name & Title | Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner | Health Department AGENCY REPORT |  |
| | Agency Name & Address | Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201 | | |
| | Subject: Position: | 20-0220R – Department of General Services Update on Sanitizing City-Owned Buildings FAVORABLE | | |

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

August 11, 2020

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #20-0220R, entitled, “Department of General Services Update on Sanitizing City-Owned Buildings.” The purpose of this resolution is to request “that the Department of General Services provide the City Council with an update on how employees of DGS have been keeping City-owned buildings clean during the COVID-19 pandemic and post information about cleaning schedules in these buildings.”

BCHD has worked closely with the City’s reopening governance structure and its associated workgroups. Specifically, BCHD has advised on several initiatives related to safely restoring and/or continuing city services. For example, BCHD has recommended the appropriate types of PPE to be used for specific occupations, among other more general occupational health and safety protocols.

At present, cleaning and sanitization of City-occupied spaces has largely been the domain of the Department of General Services and the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management. In addition to BCHD, both agencies have relied upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Maryland Occupational Safety and Health, and a number of other trusted entities to inform the process by which the cleaning of buildings is performed.

Increasing bodies of evidence surrounding COVID-19 suggest appropriate cleaning protocols are critical to preventing the disease’s spread. These measures, all adopted and implemented in the City, include ensuring that common areas and high touch surfaces remain clean, and rapidly responding in instances of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases with comprehensive sanitization. BCHD is confident these measures will both limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce disruptions of city services.

Altogether, BCHD encourages conversations regarding COVID-19 best practices and requests a **favorable** report on Council Bill #20-0220R.