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| F<br>R<br>O<br>M | Name & Title          | Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.<br>Commissioner  | Health<br>Department<br><br>MEMO |  |
|                  | Agency Name & Address | Health Department<br>210 Guilford Ave.                                                                                       |                                  |                                                                                     |
|                  | Subject               | Council Bill 08-0024R – Task Force on Noise Laws and Enforcement                                                             |                                  |                                                                                     |

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

April 1, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department supports City Council Bill 08-0024R. The purpose of the bill is to establish a Noise Law Task Force that will review the current City's noise laws and the feasibility of creating a better defined and easier to enforce noise law for the City.

The Division of Environmental Health has investigated noise complaints regarding noise levels stemming from bars and restaurants, protesters, construction work, trash pick-up, and music festivals. The division's sanitarians investigate by using noise reading meters and issue citations for violations under the Health Code. Unfortunately, many times these citations do not deter the violators from continuing their noisy activities. It is not until we threaten to take further action, *e.g.* revoke a haulers license, food license, or contact the Liquor Board, does the party attempt to reduce the nuisance.

The Health Department believes that all City noise regulations need to be thoroughly reviewed for effectiveness. One section that covers all City noise laws would be highly desirable. In addition, more guidance as to the enforcement of these violations and stricter penalties would benefit not only the City agencies but also all City residents and visitors.

Cc: Angela Gibson

