

CITY OF BALTIMORE
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

GREG BAYOR, Director
DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
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May 20, 2010

Honorable President Bernard Young
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 10-0202R**
Informational Hearing – Fiscal 2011 – Elimination of Senior Citizens
Division, Department of Recreation and Parks

Dear President Young:

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks **supports** City Council Bill # 10-0202R is for the purpose of requesting the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Director of the Senior Citizens Division to report to the City Council on the Fiscal 2011 preliminary budget plan to eliminate the Senior Citizens Division, the number of seniors who participate in the programs and services provided by the Division, and plans to find alternatives to replace the programs and services that will be discontinued.

We at the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks appreciate the concerns surrounding the severity of the Fiscal 2011 budget impact on our senior citizens programs. Eliminating the Senior Citizens Division will adversely impact thousands of senior citizens across Baltimore City. Since the 1960's, the Senior Citizens Division (SCD) has been the premier provider of recreational programs for Baltimore City's older adults. Our many city-wide programs are very highly regarded and well attended. Attendance for many of these large special events is in the hundreds and sometimes the thousands. For example, over 2,100 seniors attended our annual Kurtz Beach indoor picnic and crab feasts, held in August, 2009. **Attendees come from every neighborhood and senior site in Baltimore City** – all 14 senior centers, 56 Eating Together nutrition sites, and 94 golden age clubs along with numerous senior apartment buildings, faith based and fraternal organizations throughout the City.

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The Department of Recreation and Parks looks forward to the opportunity to discuss its plans to creatively seek resources that will enable us to continue providing this vital program to our citizens.

The Department of Recreation and Parks **supports Council Bill # 10-0202R.**

Respectfully yours,


Gregory Bayor
Director

GB:VSO

Cc: Angela Gibson, Liaison to City Council