



February 19, 2014

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

RE: **Council Bill # 14-0306**
Tobacco Products – Smoking Near Playgrounds, Schoolyards, and Athletic Facilities

Dear President Young:

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill #14-0306. This Bill is for the purpose of prohibiting the smoking of tobacco products near playgrounds, schoolyards, and athletic facilities; defining certain terms; creating certain exceptions; setting certain penalties; and generally relating to smoking tobacco products near playgrounds, schoolyards, and athletic facilities.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed Council Bill 14-0306 and supports its intent. Our agency provides opportunities that promote and enhance healthy lifestyles for the citizens of Baltimore. According to the American Lung Association, "cigarette smoking has been identified as the most important source of preventable morbidity (disease and illness) and premature mortality worldwide." As a result, we support concepts that are intended to deter negative health practices, especially those carried out in the presence of impressionable youth and young adults.

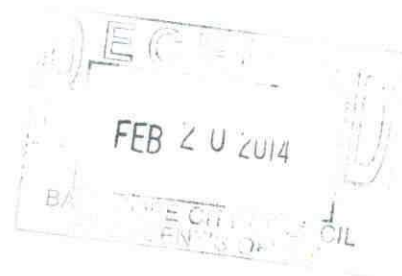
Therefore, the Department of Recreation and Parks **supports Council Bill # 14-0306.**

Respectfully yours,

Ernest W. Burkeen, Jr.
Director

EWB:VSO

Cc: Angela Gibson, Liaison to City Council



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