

F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0170– Wireless Telecommunications Antennae – Prohibited Contracts		

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

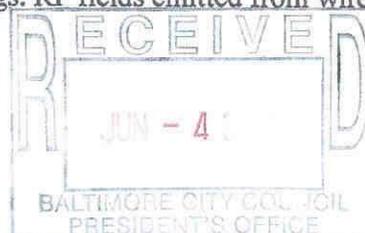
June 3, 2013

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0170 Wireless Telecommunications Antennae – Prohibited Contracts. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit contracts or other authorizations for the placement of a wireless telecommunications antenna on property that is owned or controlled by the City of Baltimore and used for the recreation, care, or education of children.

With the advent and expansion of wireless technology, there has been increasing public concern about the perceived risks of radiofrequency (RF) field exposure, and exposure to non-ionizing radiation in general. A common concern relates to the possible long-term health effects of exposure to RF fields. Review of available scientific literature regarding this issue has not identified a definitive causal relationship between RF field exposure and any specific health consequences, with the exception of a potential increase in temperature in the region of the body directly exposed to the radiation.

In some exposure scenarios, children may receive higher doses than adults, and they are more likely to be susceptible to adverse effects, due to their unique physiology and depending on their stage of physiological development. It is also important to keep in perspective that children and adolescents have more exposure to RF fields daily from common household wireless gadgets (such as cellular phones, Wi-Fi, wireless baby monitors and video games, cordless phones and other wireless communication devices), in comparison to wireless telecommunication antennae. It is also important to keep in consideration that children will have a much higher cumulative exposure to RF fields by the time they reach adulthood, due to their exposure at such a young age and the increased usage of wireless technology.

There are studies that have raised some concern about the potential neuro-developmental effects of RF field exposure in the pediatric population, as well as evidence of a possible association between RF field exposure and certain cancers, specifically with regards to cellular phone usage. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has identified cellular phone emissions as "potentially carcinogenic". However, to date, there are no laboratory studies available to confirm these findings. RF fields emitted from wireless



telecommunications antennae in publicly accessible areas are thousands of times below international safety standards for RF field exposure. With regards to exposure to RF fields emitted from wireless telecommunications antennae, there are no conclusive scientific data available to demonstrate any direct adverse effect on children and adolescents.

More research needs to be conducted regarding current radiation standards and wireless technology, and the potential impact on children's health long term, since current scientific evidence regarding this issue is both limited and inconclusive. It is recommended that policies regarding wireless telecommunications antennae and their placement in areas that may subject children to RF field exposure be developed with a precautionary approach, in light of scientific uncertainty.

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) supports Council Bill 12-0170, and will participate in the hearing if requested to provide any information that may be needed in assisting the council in making an informed decision.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Valerie Rogers, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health