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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: | 21-0064R – Investigational Hearing – Urban Farming Favorable | | |

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

November 9, 2021

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0064R, entitled, “Investigational Hearing – Urban Farming.” The purpose of this resolution is to invite the City Solicitor and representatives from the Office of the City Administrator, the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Code Enforcement Division, the Baltimore City Health Department’s Office of Animal Control, the Baltimore Police Department, the Environmental Control Board, the Department of Planning, and other relevant stakeholders to brief the City Council regarding the standards, procedures, policies, and practices for regulating urban farms in Baltimore City, and to discuss possible revisions of current standards to allow urban farms to operate safely and successfully in Baltimore City.

The BCHD Office of Animal Control has laws and regulations pertaining to the keeping of Wild, Exotic, and Hybrid Animals, which includes animals used for the purposes of agriculture such as chickens, rabbits, goats, and honeybees. These animals may be kept by an individual if the applicant/permitee meets all of the requirements listed in the regulations. If an individual and/or group seek to keep animals as part of a community farm and/or garden, the applicant must adhere to all zoning requirements and all requirements of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, as applicable.

BCHD requests a **favorable** report on City Council Bill 21-0064R, and the Department will be present at the Investigational Hearing and available to answer any questions about these laws and regulations.