



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF BALTIMORE BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 14-0306 Tobacco Products – Smoking Near Playgrounds, Schoolyards, and Athletic Facilities		

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

February 19, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 14-0306 Tobacco Products-Smoking Near Playgrounds, Schoolyards, and Athletic Facilities. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the smoking of tobacco products near playgrounds, schoolyards, and athletic facilities; defining certain terms; creating certain exceptions; and setting certain penalties.

The Baltimore City Health Department supports this bill because it is in line with the tenants of the Mayor's health policy agenda, *Healthy Baltimore 2015*. Nearly a quarter of Baltimore residents surveyed in 2011 reported that they were current smokers.ⁱ Over twenty-one percent of youth in Baltimore reported using tobacco in 2010 and reported the initiation of tobacco products within the last year.ⁱⁱ

Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. This is about one in five deaths.^{iii, iv, v} More than 10 times as many U.S. citizens have died prematurely from cigarette smoking than have died in all the wars fought by the United States during its history.^{vi} Smoking causes about 90% of all lung cancer deaths in men and women.^{vii, viii} More women die from lung cancer each year than from breast cancer. About 80% of all deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are caused by smoking.^{ix} Cigarette smoking increases risk for death from all causes in men and women.^x

Smoking not only affects the person who smokes, but affects those around them. Secondhand smoke is the combination of smoke from the burning end of a cigarette and the smoke breathed out by smokers. Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals.^{xi, xii} There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke causes numerous health problems in infants and children, including severe asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).^{xiii} Some of the health conditions caused by secondhand smoke in adults include heart disease and lung cancer.^{xiv}

Children and infants are especially impacted by secondhand smoke. Studies show that older children whose parents smoke get sick more often. Their lungs grow less than children who do not breathe secondhand smoke, and they get more bronchitis and pneumonia.^{xv} Wheezing and

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coughing are more common in children who breathe secondhand smoke.^{xvi} Secondhand smoke can trigger an asthma attack in a child. Children with asthma who are around secondhand smoke have more severe and frequent asthma attacks.^{xvii} A severe asthma attack can put a child's life in danger.

While we fully support this important bill, we would like it to be amended to include city swimming pools as well. We believe this amendment fits well within the intent of this legislation and is in line with the purpose of the bill.

BCHD supports this bill with amendment because it furthers the health of the citizens of Baltimore City. We will attend the hearing to provide any additional information and answer any questions that the Council may have.

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

ⁱ Healthy Baltimore 2015 Interim Update

ⁱⁱ Monitoring Changing Tobacco Use Behaviors 2000-2010 Legislative Report.

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohpetup/docs/HG13-1004d-FHA-BiennialTobaccoReport.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^{iv} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: What It Means to You. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^v Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. QuickStats: Number of Deaths from 10 Leading Causes—National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2010. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 2013;62(08);155. [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^{vi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^{vii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: What It Means to You. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^{viii} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. QuickStats: Number of Deaths from 10 Leading Causes—National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2010. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 2013;62(08);155. [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^{ix} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^x U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease

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Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

^{xi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006 [accessed 2013 June 10].

^{xii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A Report of the Surgeon General: How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: What It Means to You. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010 [accessed 2013 June 10]

^{xiii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006 [accessed 2013 June 10].

^{xiv} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006 [accessed 2013 June 10].

^{xv} CDC Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke
http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/health_effects/index.htm#children

^{xvi} CDC Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke
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^{xvii} CDC Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke
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