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| <b>F<br/>R<br/>O<br/>M</b> | Name & Title          | Reginald Moore<br>Executive Director  | CITY OF<br>BALTIMORE |  |
|                            | Agency Name & Address | Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks<br>3001 East Drive, Baltimore, Maryland (MD) 21217                    | <b>MEMO</b>          |  |
|                            | Subject:              | City Council Bill 21-0040R Informational Hearing -<br>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design                   |                      |  |

**DATE:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021

**TO:** The Honorable City Council President Nick Mosby  
Members of the City Council City Hall  
100 North Holliday Street

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRO) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0040R, entitled, “Informational Hearing - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.” This resolution seeks to “discuss ways that the City can prevent crime through the concepts utilized in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design model.”

Best practices within the Recreation & Parks community address this important issue as a matter of course through Recreation Programming, Park Maintenance practices within Forestry, and through thoughtful Capital Investment.

Youths who participate in extracurricular activities have higher self-esteem, greater academic achievement and lower incidences of delinquency. Participation within quality structured programming in recreation centers dramatically decrease problem behaviors and juvenile delinquency. Data from the National Recreation & Parks Association has also shown that students who reported spending no time in afterschool extracurricular activities were 57 percent more likely to drop out of high school, 49 percent more likely to use drugs and 27 percent more likely to have been arrested than students who spend as much as four hours in structured activities.

Forestry has long advocated for this type of resolution. One of TreeBaltimore's major talking points for increasing the tree canopy has been its effect on crime, we typically cite the USFS, local-based study: Troy, Austin; Grove, J. Morgan; O'Neill-Dunne, Jarlath. 2012. The relationship between tree canopy and crime rates across an urban-rural gradient in the greater Baltimore region. Landscape and Urban Planning. 106: 262-270. [https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/jrnl/2012/nrs\\_2012\\_troy\\_001.pdf](https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/jrnl/2012/nrs_2012_troy_001.pdf)

A City history of disinvestment based on race and income have contributed to crime and deteriorating infrastructure in Baltimore’s underserved communities. BCRP’s Capital Development and Planning is tasked with the planning, design, and implementation of the Capital Improvement Program and evaluates the city-wide distribution of capital funds each year through equity analysis. Our current design approach which includes extensive community outreach and design for the genius of place inherently addresses the Social cohesion, Threshold capacity, and Community culture concepts within CPTED. Furthermore, the creation of new multi-modal trails between our parks has sought to address the Connectivity concept. Whereas our design efforts to this point have not explicitly followed CPTED, we have essentially done so with the focus on sound urban design and planning.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Morgan, Legislative Liaison, at [jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov).