


Leana Wen

FROM	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner	Health Department Agency Report	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0605 – Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation – Health Department - \$54,000		

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

January 4, 2016

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) supports Council Bill 15-0605 – Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation – Health Department - \$54,000 and encourages a favorable report. This bill is requesting an increase in the annual grant provided to the Baltimore Animal Rescue Shelter (BARCS) of \$54,000 to cover the half the cost of a full time veterinarian.

Every year, BARCS provides care for over 12,000 animals. BARCS responsibility includes overseeing the health and welfare of the 250 animals housed at the shelter, evaluating 35 new animals arriving everyday, diagnosing and treating sick and injured animals, handling emergency cases, diagnosing and investigating infectious disease cases, providing care for over 500 animals in foster homes, and providing spay and neuter surgery and wellness checks for over 4,500 adoptable animals. To meet this extraordinary demand for services, it is imperative that BARCS have adequate staffing. Currently, there are only two full-time veterinarians at BARCS handling a work load more suitable for eight veterinarians.

The funds provided with this bill will be matched by funds secured by BARCS through fundraising to cover the full cost of a third veterinarian. With these funds BARCS will be able to provide spay and neuter surgeries for adoptable animals six days a week and expand their overall capacity to treat animals in need of medical care.

Over the last three years, BARCS has managed to save the life of every healthy animal taken in. With additional resources BARCS will be able to provide care for treatable conditions, enhance preventative measures, increase spay and neuter services and provide better quality and more comprehensive care for all of the animals in their care.

The Health Department supports this bill and strongly encourages a favorable passage. We will be present at the hearing to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Andrew Nicklas, Legislative Director, Health Department

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