


F R O M	Name & Title	Leana Wen, M.D., M.Sc. Health Commissioner <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	15-0565 – Personal Property Tax Credits – Food Desert Incentive Areas		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
409 City Hall

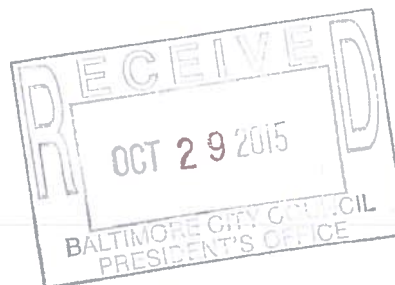
October 27, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0565 – Personal Property Tax Credits – Food Desert Incentive Areas. The purpose of this bill is to establishing a tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on qualified supermarkets in Food Desert Incentive Areas. **BCHD supports this bill and encourages the Committee and the Council to report this bill favorably.**

Access to healthy food is a serious health concern in Baltimore. The Administration successfully obtained the authority to grant these credits from the General Assembly and we cannot delay passing this critical bill. By granting tax credits, the bill will both attract new supermarkets to food deserts and retain the stores currently operating in these areas.

As a member of the inter-governmental Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, BCHD supports this bill granting personal property tax credits to supermarkets in designated food desert areas and encourages a favorable report. The Health Department 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, Department of Health



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