



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department  MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0121: Food Service Facilities – Public notice of Inspection Grades		

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

September 21, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0121 Food Services Facilities – Public Notice of Inspection Grades. The purpose of this bill is to establish a program for grading and posting results of food-service-facility inspections, providing for the issuance of grade cards, to be posted on a facility’s premises visible to the general public as well as providing for the public posting of inspection grades on the Health Department’s website.

BCHD welcomes the addition of a food grading and posting system. We believe that a grading system gives restaurant patrons the ability to quickly assess an eatery’s inspection status. Additionally, posting this information to a website offers restaurant patrons the opportunity to have real time knowledge and more in depth understanding of a restaurant’s inspection process.

BCHD will work closely with MOIT to incorporate this grading system into “Open Baltimore”.

While we fully support the grading system, the following are several amendments we would like to see made:

1. On page 2, line 23, after “primary” delete “and” insert “,”
2. On page 2, line 23 after “secondary” insert “daycare center”
3. On page 2, line 27 after “charitable” insert “and religious”
4. On page 3, line 21, after “closed.” insert “The Department may in its discretion develop signage and require postage of the closure.”
5. On page 3, delete lines 26-31, On page 4, delete lines 1-3
  - a. We believe that §6-703 (D) runs contrary to the purpose of the bill. If each facility has seven days to rectify and then our sanitarians complete a new inspection, each facility that is now compliant will receive an “A” grade. The restaurant patron will only see the “A” posted will have no knowledge of the previous lower grade. We recommend that the initial letter grade be posted until next inspection required by COMAR 10.15.03.30(C)(2-4).

BCHD’s primary mission is to promote a healthy Baltimore City by advocating, leading, and providing services of the highest quality in order to promote and protect the health of the

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residents of Baltimore. The food grading and posting system furthers our mission to do so. Therefore, we support the bill with the aforementioned amendments and appreciate the opportunity to participate in the hearing to provide any additional information that is needed.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
Mary Beth Haller, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Health  
Amy Samman, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Health