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	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202	AGENCY REPORT	
	Subject: Position:	CC #19-0159R FAVORABLE		

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

November 13, 2019

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review City Council Bill #19-0159R, entitled “Investigative Hearing - Building Backups of Untreated Sewage.” This resolution seeks a discussion regarding “the effectiveness and sufficiency of measures being taken to address basement backups of raw sewage in the City.”

Sewage back-ups can be hazardous to one’s health. With this in mind, BCHD takes a limited role in addressing back-ups. Recently, BCHD and the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) developed a flyer entitled, “Cleaning Up After a Sewage Back-Up.” This document details the equipment and steps needed to mitigate any issues potentially created by a sewage back-up.

Additionally, BCHD’s Bureau of Environmental Health’s Ecology & Institutional Services program, comprised of four inspectors, conduct sewage complaint investigations as a part of their daily work routines. BCHD inspectors may issue violation notices and citations to property owners for sewage odors or observed sewage in a given home, usually to the benefit of a renter who will no longer be charged with sewage cleanup. BCHD is not involved with remediation efforts, and property owners are responsible for cleaning up sewage overflow.

BCHD welcomes the opportunity to discuss its role in addressing sewage back-ups, and recommends a **favorable** report on Council Bill #19-0159R.