

FROM	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health <i>OF</i>	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Health Department 1001 E. Fayette St.		
	Subject	Council Resolution 10-0213R - Investigative Hearing – Dirt Bikes on City Streets		

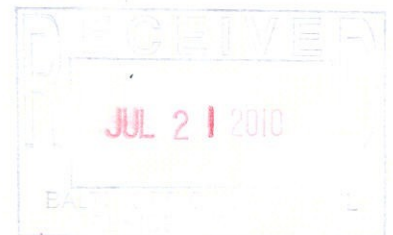
To: President and Members
Baltimore City Council
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

July 16, 2010

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to City Council Resolution 10-0213R - Investigative Hearing – Dirt Bikes on City Streets. This resolution requests the Police Commissioner, the Director of Recreation and Parks, and the Director of Transportation to present to the City Council a comprehensive report on the impact of illegal dirt bikes on the welfare, safety, and enjoyment of Baltimore City's residential neighborhoods, parks, and transportation system; asking the Interim Health Commissioner to report on the impact to the health care system in terms of uncompensated care for injuries arising from incidents involving dirt bikes; and urging all parties to work with the Council to develop a comprehensive plan to address the persistent problem of illegal dirt bikes in Baltimore City.

The Health Department recognizes that the use of illegal dirt bikes has a detrimental effect on the welfare, safety, and enjoyment of Baltimore City's residential neighborhoods, parks, and transportation system. While there is an impact to the City's health care system, in terms of uncompensated care for injuries arising from incidents involving dirt bikes, there is no specific data available about the number of injuries related to dirt bike accidents, nor the amount of uncompensated care for these incidents. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Hospital Association and city hospital emergency rooms do not differentiate in their databases dirt bikes accidents from all two-wheeled vehicles. Therefore, the Health Department is not able to provide information about the uncompensated care for injuries arising from incidents involving dirt bikes. However, we are happy to work with other City agencies to develop a comprehensive plan to address the persistent problem of illegal dirt bikes in Baltimore City.

CC: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Christopher Thomascutty, Deputy Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Rachel Indek, Legislative Director, Department of Health



Comments