



July 11, 2022

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, Suite 400  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers:

As the former health commissioner (2005-2009) and chief of staff (2005-2012) of the Baltimore City Health Department, we are writing in full support of the proposal 22-0198 to rename the Baltimore City Health Department Building the Dr. Maxie T. Collier Health Department Building.

Dr. Maxie T. Collier was an inspirational figure in the health department, even more than a decade after his service and his premature death at the age of 49. As a community psychiatrist, Dr. Collier developed programs to reduce infant mortality and recruit high school students into health fields. As the first Black Commissioner of Health for the city, he championed access to mental health services, creative solutions to HIV and addiction. He cared deeply about making sure that all programs reached those most in need of support.

For this reason, both in our old building and the new one, the most important conference room at the Health Department has been the "Maxie Collier" room. It is entirely fitting to name the building after this pioneering public health leader for our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua M. Sharfstein".

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Vice Dean for Public Health Practice  
and Community Engagement

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Spencer".

Michelle Spencer, MS  
Associate Director, Bloomberg American  
Health initiative