


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	AGENCY REPORT	
	Subject/ Position:	22-0254 – Office of Aging – Independent Agency Letter of Information		

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

January 31, 2023

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to submit this "Letter of Information" in review of Bill-22-0254, entitled "Office of Aging - Independent Agency." This ordinance seeks to establish an Office of Aging as an independent agency; define certain terms; provide for the appointment of the Director of the Office; establish duties of the Office; provide for the staff and budget of the Office; require the adoption of certain rules and regulations; require the Office to submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council; establish the Commission on Aging to advise and collaborate with the Office; provide for the appointment, structure, and governance of the Commission; require the Commission to submit an annual report to the Director; and require Commission members, the Director, and other staff of the Office to file financial disclosures under the Ethics Code.

The Baltimore City Health Department is the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Baltimore City, designated by the State of Maryland, in accordance with federal and state law. Through its Division of Aging and CARE Services, BCHD plans, coordinates, and delivers services that help Baltimore's older residents maintain their independence in community settings.

BCHD's Division of Aging and CARE Services' \$18 million budget is financed by State and federal funds, including Older Americans Act allocations and Medicaid reimbursement. BCHD offers more than 20 programs that provide or support such services as transportation, legal services, housing, nutrition, education, information and assistance, outreach, employment, health promotions, and in-home services. It supports 13 senior centers and operates Baltimore City's Maryland Access Point site, serving as Baltimore City's point of entry into the service system for older adults and persons with disabilities.

Additionally, BCHD currently staffs the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE) on behalf of the Mayor's Office. Comprised of 24 members, the Mayor appoints 18 of the 24 Commissioners; the remaining six are ex-officio and are directors of key city agencies serving the City's older adults (the Baltimore City Police Department, the Department of Planning, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and

the Department of Social Services). The Commissioner of Health also serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission.

The Baltimore City Health Department looks forward to engaging in conversations regarding the issues raised by Council Bill 22-0254 during the legislative process.