

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Faith P. Leach, Chief Administrative Officer	<b>CITY of</b> <b>BALTIMORE</b>  <b>MEMO</b>
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	<b>Office of the Mayor</b> 100 N. Holliday Street, Room Baltimore, MD 21202	
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 23-0180R Informational Hearing – Summer 2023 Baltimore City Pool Closures	

DATE: August 23, 2023

**TO** The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o  
Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

The Office of the City Administrator has completed its review of City Council Bill 23-0180R.

Under the current administration, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has taken a proactive approach to equitably address the deteriorating conditions of Baltimore City public pools, many of which were constructed in the 1960s and 1970s and have received little to no investment over their lifetime.

In an effort to address aging infrastructure, BCRP engaged consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all City pools in 2019. They have utilized the findings from the nearly 300-page assessment to identify priorities and develop a plan for enhancing all 23 indoor and outdoor pools within the next five years.

Currently, nine pool locations are funded and actively progressing through design, bidding, or construction—Ambrose Kennedy, Patterson Park (Main and Kid pools), Walter P. Carter, Coldstream, Towanda, Greater Model, City Springs, and North Harford.

As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, BCRP has had over 77,000 visitors at the pools for the 2023 pool season. During the fall and winter months, BCRP held eight lifeguard training classes yielding 92 new lifeguards. Additionally, we hosted seven teen pool parties, resulting in approximately 2,300 attendees.

Nonetheless, the closures of Cherry Hill, Clifton Park, and Patterson Park pools have garnered the most attention as it relates to City pools this summer. While it may be unexpected to the public, it should not be surprising to City leaders. Several of the pools in our current inventory of pools are beyond their useful life after experiencing more than 50 years of deferred maintenance. Outdated and inefficient systems result in leaks that require constant refilling, offer a poor user experience, and are expensive to start up every year.

The Scott Administration is making unprecedented investments in BCRP. In February 2022, Mayor Scott announced a \$120 million vision for world-class recreation which includes \$41 million in ARPA funding for 20 new playgrounds, seven new basketball courts, and six new pools.