

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG,
Mayor



**DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION AND PARKS**

REGINALD MOORE, *Executive Director*
Dr. Ralph W. E. Jones, Jr. Building
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-7900

DATE: Wednesday, September 4, 2019

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council

FROM: Baltimore City Recreation & Parks

POSITION: Support

Re: City Council Bill #19-0410 – The Baltimore City Trauma-Responsive Care Act

Dear President and City Council Members,

The City of Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0410. The bill establishes the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, requires certain agencies to designate individuals to undergo formal training and to perform certain duties to ensure trauma-informed service delivery, requires certain agencies to submit periodic progress reports to the Task Force, requires the Task Force to submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council, and reconstitutes the Office of Children, Youth, and Families to be the Office of Children and Family Success and designates that office to lead a citywide initiative to prioritize trauma-responsive and trauma-informed services.

Our agency is responsible for helping children in Baltimore grow into well balanced, healthy, whole citizens. Our vision is to build a stronger Baltimore with health and wellness at its core. The means to do this comes through offering quality recreational programs for our youth. Currently, we are working the Department of Planning and the Mayor's Office and have established the Baltimore Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. The initiative was signed by Mayor Young on May 11, 2019. It will increase trauma-informed care practices among the environmental community and increasing nature-based experiences among the childcare community. By strengthening partnerships between the health, early childhood, education and environmental communities we can more effectively address this crisis. In addition, this bill provides the opportunity for our Recreation Center staff to contribute to and participate in meaningful trauma-based service training that would equip them to better serve the various emotional, mental, social and physical needs of the youth within their respective communities.

We know that our City's children are faced with daily challenge their emotional and physical wellbeing. Therefore, BCRP recommends approval of City Council Bill #19-0410. We look forward to working with the other city agencies including Office of Children and Family Success, and others dedicated to Baltimore's children and trauma-informed care. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Morgan at jenny.morgan@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-396-7900.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reginald Moore".

Reginald Moore
Executive Director

City of Baltimore, Department of Recreation & Parks