


F R O M	Name & Title	Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner <i>md</i>	Health Department AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202		
	Subject: Position:	CC #19-0165R NO POSITION		

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

January 21, 2020

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review City Council Bill #19-0165R, entitled “B-more Clean: Coordinated Agency Community Clean-up and Maintenance Strategy.” This resolution seeks to have several City agencies “present to the City Council a plan for coordinated community clean-up and maintenance throughout Baltimore and a plan for increased community involvement.”

In recent years, BCHD has advocated for, supported, and spearheaded efforts to reduce waste in communities. The expanded polystyrene foam (also known as “Styrofoam”) ban, Council Bill #17-0117, was adopted in April of 2018 through the combined efforts of the Office of Sustainability and BCHD. BCHD’s testimony noted, “[p]olystyrene packaging constitutes a major source of litter in the City and the Inner Harbor; due to their chemical makeup, it can take several decades to hundreds of years for some of these items to decompose and deteriorate.” Similarly, BCHD supported the City’s recent plastic bag ban, Council Bill #19-0401, because said “bags and litter add to existing blight, which carries with it... [certain] public health concerns.”

Altogether, BCHD welcomes a conversation to discuss the detrimental impacts waste can have on a community’s health and wellbeing. However, while BCHD is supportive of efforts to clean up neighborhoods, in developing a plan for said efforts, BCHD defers to the Department of Public Works and takes **no position** on Council Bill #19-0165R.