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	Subject: Position:	CC #20-0213R FAVORABLE		

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

May 14, 2020

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review City Council Bill #20-0213R, entitled “Informational Hearing - COVID-19 Emergency Spending.” This resolution seeks to have several City agencies “provide the City Council with an update on COVID-19 emergency spending.”

To date, Baltimore City has experienced over 3,000 cases of COVID-19 and over 150 people have already died from the disease. In response to this pandemic, the City of Baltimore, as led by BCHD, has mobilized its resources in an effort to quickly respond and mitigate the effects of this pandemic on the City. BCHD, through its incident command team, has worked jointly with the city’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to identify, assess, and respond to emergent issues stemming from the pandemic. Broadly, BCHD, with the support of the entirety of city government has prioritized three objectives:

1. Minimize the spread, instance of outbreaks, and death related to COVID-19;
2. Develop measures to protect vulnerable populations, first responders, and healthcare workers from infection; and
3. Minimize reductions in regular service delivery by increasing protections and resiliency of the city’s workforce.

To achieve these objectives, BCHD has completely restructured and redeployed its staff using the principles of incident response and disaster recovery. BCHD’s restructuring is broken into four functional areas that are accountable for managing various elements of the response: Operations, Logistics, Administration, and Planning.

Altogether, BCHD welcomes a more detailed conversation to discuss its current emergency spending efforts, and urges a **favorable** report on Council Bill #20-0213R.