

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Health Committee is to study, examine and propose regulations concerning health and environmental issues; and to make recommendations and propose legislation for improving the overall health and welfare of all residents of Baltimore City.

The Honorable Kristerfer Burnett Chairman

PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Council Resolution#20-0188R
Informational Hearing – Syringe Service Expansion

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Sharon Green Middleton – Chair Danielle McCray – Vice Chair Eric Costello Edward Reisinger Robert Stokes Staff: Samuel Johnson - Larry Greene (pension only)

TRANSPORTATION

Ryan Dorsey – Chair Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair John Bullock Staff: Jennifer Coates

Rev. 04.06.2020 Effective: 04.13.2020

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director 415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596 email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health

Council Resolution: 20-0188R

Informational Hearing – Syringe Service Expansion

Sponsor: President Scott, et al Introduced: January 13, 2020

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Fire Department, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the Law Department to explain the status of syringe service programs in the City and the State.

Effective: Upon enactment

Agency Reports

Law Department
Health Department
Police Department
Fire Department
Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

Favorable/Comments

Analysis

Current Law

The Health Code of Baltimore City, outlines the rules, regulations and mandates for health related issues.

Background

What are syringe service programs? Syringe services programs (SSPs), which have also been referred to as syringe exchange programs (SEPs), needle exchange programs (NEPs) and needle-syringe programs (NSPs), are community-based programs that provide access to sterile needles and syringes free of cost and facilitate safe disposal of used needles and syringes. As described in the CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) guidance, SSPs are an effective

component of a comprehensive, integrated approach to HIV prevention among persons who inject drugs. These programs have also been associated with reduced risk for infection with hepatitis C virus. Most SSPs offer other prevention materials (e.g., alcohol swabs, vials of sterile water, condoms) and services, such as education on safer injection practices and wound care; overdose prevention; referral to substance use disorder treatment programs including medication-assisted treatment; and counseling and testing for HIV and hepatitis C. Many SSPs also provide linkage to critical services and programs, such as HIV care, treatment, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) services; hepatitis C treatment, hepatitis A and B vaccinations; screening for other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis; partner services; prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission; and other medical, social, and mental health services.¹

Who can access SSPs? Everyone can access SSPs, but they are intended to reduce HIV transmission among persons who inject drugs.²

What are the laws in MD? Syringe service programs are legal in Maryland as of 2016 (SB97), and state law authorizes the retail sale of syringes without a prescription with no direct prohibition on sales to people who inject drugs (Md. Code Regs. 10.13.08.01). Also, see the Law Department's agency report.

Baltimore City Needle Exchange Program is one of the oldest needle exchange program in the United States.⁴

The Baltimore City Needle Exchange Program (NEP) seeks to minimize HIV and hepatitis C transmission by reducing the circulation of used syringes. The program also provides referrals and linkages to drug treatment services, as well as testing for syphilis and HIV. These services are provided in seventeen locations throughout East and West Baltimore.⁵ (See related attachments)

The Health Department Needle Exchange Program for Baltimore City aims to lower incidences of HIV, hepatitis C, and other blood borne infections that are caused by use of contaminated needles. The program provides clean syringes and allows disposal of used syringes to those who are drugdependent. Needle Exchange also refers clients to drug treatment centers and provides testing for syphilis and HIV. All clients are trained to reverse opioid overdose with naloxone.⁶

On September 29, 2020 several agency representatives will come before the committee to explain the status of syringe service programs in the City and the State. Per the primary sponsor of the Resolution, "Examining the status of syringe service expansion is critical for understanding where the city needs to go; to start having conversations about how to save lives in Baltimore City and across the world."

¹ University of Maryland Baltimore County, **UMBC** – newsletter: Center for Community Collaboration – Syringe Service Programs

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ GOVSERV – Baltimore City Needle Exchange Program - website

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Baltimore City Health Department website.

⁷ The Honorable Brandon Scott, President, Baltimore City Council

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Health Code, Council Resolution 20-0188R, see footnotes, and all

agency reports received as of this writing.

marqueite m. Curin

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin Analysis Date: September 24, 2020

Direct Inquiries to: 443-984-3485

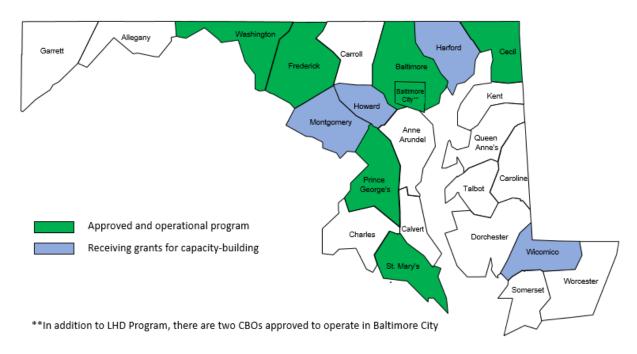
<u>Literature – Attachments</u>

Syringe Services
in
Baltimore City

Syringe Services Programs in Maryland

Last updated December 2019

Maryland Syringe Services Program Development



The image above illustrates where syringe service programs (SSPs) are currently operating or in the process of building up in Maryland. This guide only includes information about jurisdictions where SSPs are currently operating (those in green). Other jurisdictions may offer other harm reduction services besides SSP.

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BALTIMORE CITY

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition

Email: training@baltimoreharmreduction.org

Facebook: @BmoreHRC (message us!)

Call or text: 410.205.5143

Fridays 11:30am to 3:30pm

SPARC Center for Women: 908 Washington Blvd. Baltimore, MD Syringe services at this location are only for people who identify as women

By appointment (reach out via email, Facebook messenger, or call/text)

BHRC office: 116 E. 25th Street, Baltimore, MD Reach out via email, Facebook messenger, or call/text

Services at SPARC and by appointment at the BHRC office include syringe distribution and collection, overdose education and naloxone distribution, safer sex supply distribution, referrals to case management, healthcare, and other resources (some of which are on-site at SPARC).

Charm City Care Connection

Website: www.charmcitycareconnection.org

Facebook: @CharmCityClinic Call or text: 443.478.3015

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

1212 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, 21213 (corner of Wolfe & Preston)

Services include syringe exchange services; HIV and HCV testing; Narcan training and distribution; safer sex supply distribution; wound care and nurse consultation



BALTIMORE CITY (Cont.)

Baltimore City Health Department: Community Risk Reduction Program

Website: https://baltimorehealth.org/nep Facebook: @BaltimoreNeedleExchange

East Baltimore van: 410.371.2596 West Baltimore van: 410.371.2547

Mondays

9:00am - 10:00am

Druid Health Clinic (side lot)

Fulton & Fayette

10:15am - 11:20am

Pratt and Carey Freemont and Riggs

12:30pm - 3:15pm

Monroe & Ramsey Freemont & Laurens

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Ellwood Park

8:00pm - 9:30pm

Milton & Monument

10:00pm - 11:30pm

Madison Park

Tuesdays

9:00am - 10:00am

Montford & Biddle Greenmount & 23rd

10:15pm - 11:20pm

North & Maryland

Fulton & Baker

12:30pm - 3:15pm

Pratt & Carey

Freemont & Riggs

Wednesdays

9:30am - 11:30am

St. Luke's Church on the Avenue:

800 W. 36th Street

5:00pm - 7:00pm

York & Woodbourne

8:00pm - 9:30pm

Fremont & Laurens

10:00pm - 11:30pm

Reisterstown & Belvedere

Thursdays

9:00am - 10:00am

Morrell Park Baltimore & Hilton

10:15am - 11:20am

Pontiac & 9th

Walbrook & Dennison

12:30pm - 3:15pm

Monroe & Ramsey

Milton & Monument

5:00pm - 6:00pm

North & Druid Hill

7:00pm - 9:30pm

Baltimore & Gay

Fridays

9:00am - 10:00am

Greenmount & Preston

Reisterstown &

Belvedere

10:15am - 11:20am

North & Gay

Park Heights &

Spaulding

12:30 pm - 3:15pm

Dundalk

Druid Clinic

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Dundalk

(Dundalk & Holabird)

8:00pm - 9:30pm

Belair & Edison

10:00pm - 11:30pm

Monroe & Ramsey

Saturdays

9:30am - 11:30am

North & Gay

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Fremont & Riggs



BALTIMORE COUNTY

Baltimore County Health Department: Harm Reduction Program

Website: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health/healthservices/harmreduction.html

Email: harmreduction@baltimorecountymd.gov

Text or Call: 443.750.4914

Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Drumcastle Government Center 6401 York Road, Baltimore, 21212

Mondays 10:00am to 1:00pm

Eastern Family Resource Center 9150 Franklin Square Drive, Rosedale, 21237

2nd & 4th Mondays 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Liberty Family Resource Center 3525 Resource Drive, 21133

Tuesdays 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Drumcastle Government Center 6401 York Road, Baltimore, 21212

Wednesdays 9:00am to 11:00 am

Dundalk Health Center 7700 Dunmanway, Baltimore, 21222

Fridays 8:30am to 11:30am

Lansdowne Health Center 3902 Annapolis Road, Lansdowne, 21227

Fridays 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Dundalk Health Center 7700 Dunmanway, Baltimore, 21222



CECIL COUNTY

Cecil County Health Department

Contact: Katie Carroll, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator

Work: 443.245.3917 Cell: 443. 907.0112 Email: cchd.harmreduction@maryland.gov

Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

John M. Byers Health Center, 401 Bow St. Elkton, 21921

Services provided: Peer support, HIV & Hepatitis C testing and care navigation, overdose prevention education and naloxone provided, safer use supplies and syringes provided, syringe collection and disposal, referrals for treatment

Voices of Hope: Hope Street Outreach

Phone: 443.993.7055

Voices of Hope offers Harmony Syringe Services through backpack teams in certain neighborhoods throughout the week. Call the number above to arrange to meet peers when in your area.

Hollingsworth Manor

Wednesdays 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Fridays 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Sundays 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Downtown Elkton

Wednesdays 10:00am to 12:00pm

Lakeside / Chesapeake City

Thursdays 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Lakeside / Winding Brook

Saturdays 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Crystal Beach / Chesapeake City

Thursdays 4:30pm to 6:30pm



FREDERICK COUNTY

Frederick County Health Department: Harm Reduction Services

Website: https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/540/Harm-Reduction-Services

Phone: 301.600.1777

Email: HarmReductionServices@FrederickCountyMD.gov Facebook: Frederick County Harm Reduction Services

Check Facebook or the website for the most up-to-date monthly calendar!

Every 2nd & 4th Monday 12:00pm to 2:00pm

Mobile @ Brunswick: 114 East A Street, Brunswick, 21716 (van to rear of church on Moose Heart Rd, look for sign on 2nd Avenue)

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday 11:00am to 1:00pm

Mobile @ Thurmont: 10 Frederick Road, Thurmont, 21788 (van in front parking lot)

Every 3rd Tuesday 11:00am to 1:00pm

Mobile @ Genesis: 1160 West Patrick Street, Frederick, 21702 (van in front parking lot)

Every 3rd Wednesday 10:00am to 12:00pm

Mobile @ Point of Rocks: 1519 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks, 21777 (van in front parking lot)

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Mobile @ Walkersville: 21 Fulton Avenue, Walkersville, 21793 (van behind church)

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Mobile @ 703 W. Patrick St.: 703 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, 21701 (van in church parking lot, access via Kline Blvd, follow parking lot around building to the left)

Every Friday 8:00am to 2:00pm

Concerted Care Group, 300B Scholl's Lane, Frederick, 21701 (look for sign on door)

Full services* include:

- Sterile syringes & other injection equipment
- Safe disposal containers & collection of used syringes
- Fentanyl test strips
- Narcan and overdose prevention information

- Rapid HIV, Hepatitis C, & Syphilis testing
- Wound care education & supplies
- Safe sex supplies
- Linkage to care and community supports

(* Full services may not be available at all locations at all times. Full services can be accessed at Scholl's Lane Entrance @ CCG location every Friday)



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Family and Medical Counseling Service, Incorporated

Phone: 202.699.1984

Monday through Friday 6:00am to 2:30pm

Throughout zip code areas 20745, 20743, 20747, and 20746

SSP employees walk through these zip codes and carry supplies for syringe services and overdose prevention for any interested program participant. Call the number above to speak with a team member and request a visit!

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

St. Mary's County Health Department: Harm Reduction Program

Website: www.smchd.org/harmreduction

Phone number: 301.862.1680

Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

46035 Signature Lane, Lexington Park, 20653

Syringe distribution, safe sharps disposal, tips on safer injection, free HIV and Hepatitis C screenings (OraQuick), Narcan trainings and free Narcan

See website for an up to date program event calendar.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County Health Department: Harm Reduction Program

Website: https://washcohealth.org/health-services/harm-reduction/

Facebook: Hub City Strong Harm Reduction

Phone: 240.313.3310

Monday through Friday 8:30am to 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:00pm

925 North Burhans Blvd, Hagerstown, 21742

Syringe Disposal and Safer Injecting Equipment Distribution

HIV and Syphilis testing as requested

Narcan, Fentanyl Test Strips Distribution, and Harm Reduction Education:

Wednesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm @ 40 West Church Street, Hagerstown, 21742

1st Thursday 11:00am – 1:00pm @ It's a Blessing to Be a Blessing, Franklin & Prospect St.

3rd Thursday 11:00am – 1:00pm @ Hagerstown Community College, Student Center

4th Saturday 11:00am – 12:30pm @ Community Cafe

Harm Reduction Works Group:

Tuesdays 11:30pm – 12:30pm @ 925 North Burhans Blvd, Hagerstown

Harm Reduction Works is a fully scripted, harm reduction based, replicable self-help
group. Meetings will meet weekly starting on 1/7/20. There will be Narcan and fentanyl
test strips available.

Community Advisory Board:

1st Mondays 12:00pm – 1:00pm (with exception of holidays, making it the 2nd Monday – Please call to confirm time)

The Community Advisory Board involves individuals with personal experiences of substance use or concern for those that do.

Narcan:

Wednesdays 10:00am – 11:45am @ 40 W Church St, Hagerstown

Every Wednesday the Harm Reduction Program will be available for the distribution of

Narcan, either for refills or for those needing to be trained.

Cultural Humility Awareness Group:

2nd Friday of each month at different human services sites throughout Washington County (call to ask for next meeting location)

The Cultural Humility Awareness Group was established to bring together health care providers and others. The goal of this group is to develop a shared understanding of values, beliefs, and needs of various cultures and the society we live in. By reaching this goal we can enhance the services we deliver to people. The group is curriculum driven with specific tasks to accomplish at and between each session.



Immunity from prosecution for SSP affiliates

MD Health-Gen Code § 24-908 (2016)

(a) Immunity from prosecution. -- A Program staff member, Program volunteer, or Program participant may not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for violating § 5-601, § 5-619, § 5-620, or § 5-902(c) or (d) of the Criminal Law Article for possessing or distributing controlled paraphernalia or drug paraphernalia whenever the possession or distribution of the controlled paraphernalia or drug paraphernalia is a direct result of the employee's, volunteer's, or participant's activities in connection with the work of a Program authorized under this subtitle.

Establishing a new SSP

Local health departments and community-based organizations throughout Maryland can apply to become an authorized Syringe Services Program, whether there is already an existing program in their jurisdiction or not. Visit **http://bit.ly/MDHaccess** for more information.

PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



SERVICES.

Summer 2020 Temporary COVID-19

EAST VAN: 410-371-2596 WEST VAN: 410-371-2547

Community Risk Reduction Services Management Team Derrick Hunt, Jeffrey Long and Lisa Parker 410-396-3731





Monday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Pratt & Lombard

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fremont & Laurens

11:15 AM – 1:15 PM Brooklyn (Patapsco & 6**)

12:15 AM - 2:15 PM Fulton & Baker

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Baltimore & Conkling

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Milton & Monument

Tuesday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Montford & Biddle

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Monroe & Ramsey

11:15 AM - 1:15 PM N. Fremont & Riggs

12:15 AM - 2:15 PM Druid Hill Clinic [side lot]

Wednesday

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Potapsco & 6th (Brooklyn)

Thursday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Morrell Park

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Walbrook & Dennison

11:15 AM - 1:15 PM Monroe & Ramsey

12:15 AM - 2:15 PM North & Druid Hill

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM North Ave. & Druid Hill

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM *Baltimore & Gay (The Block)

Friday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Park Heights & Spaulding

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Maryland & 21st

11:15 AM - 1:15 PM N. Fremont & Riggs

12:15 AM - 2:15 PM Milton & Monument

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Monroe & Ramsey

Saturday

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM North Ave. & Gay

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Fremont & Riggs

Like us on

facebook

http://health.baltimorecity.gov/hiv-std-services/community-risk-reduction

Please Note: The Needle Exchange Program Will be closed on the Following Dates:

Friday July 1st- Independence Day Monday September 7th- Labor Day

Council Resolution 20-0188R AGENCY REPORTS

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

February 27, 2020

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council Attn: Executive Secretary Room 409, City Hall 100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 20-188R – Informational Hearing – Syringe Service

Expansion

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 20-188R for form and legal sufficiency. This resolution is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Fire Department, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Law Department to explain the status of syringe service programs in the City and the State.

Baltimore's needle and syringe exchange program began in 1994 when the General Assembly passed statutory authority for a pilot program to be administered by the City Health Department entitled "AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program." Maryland Code, Health Gen. §§ 24-801 – 809. The program provides for the exchange of hypodermic needles and syringes for sterile ones with the approval of an oversight committee appointed by the Mayor. §§ 24-802, 24-804. The program also provides for linkage to training, preventative education and drug treatment services, disease testing, wound care and referrals to overdose response programs to assist participants and staff. The Director of the program, appointed by the City Health Commissioner, must submit all plans and protocols to the Commissioner prior to implementation. § 24-805. The Baltimore City Health Department is charged with developing program evaluation with the advice and approval of the oversight The Health Department is required to report annually to the oversight committee. § 24-806. committee, the Governor and the General Assembly on the quantity of needles exchanged as part of the program. § 24-806 (d). Staff and participants are immunized from liability under state law for possessing or distributing drug paraphernalia when that possession is in connection with authorized conduct that is part of the program. § 24-808. However, staff and participants are not immunized from laws prohibiting the redistribution of needles or laws "prohibiting or regulating the use, possession, dispensing, distribution or promotion of controlled dangerous substances,

dangerous drugs ... or any conspiracy or attempt to commit any of those offenses" except with regard to residue contained in a needle exchanged as part of the program. § 24-809.

In 2016, the Opioid – Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Act was enacted, authorizing local health departments and community-based organizations statewide to establish syringe exchange (or service) programs (SSPs) as part of a prevention and outreach program. Maryland Code, Health Gen. §§ 24-901 *et. seq.* A local program must be authorized by the Maryland Department of Health. § 24-902. The provisions of the 2016 law are similar to the authorization for the pilot program previously implemented for AIDS prevention, providing immunity for staff and participants for the possession of drug paraphernalia as part of the program but not from laws regulating the use or possession or distribution of drugs. §§ 24-908, 909. The Maryland Department of Health website states that there are currently 9 active SSPs in the state.

Maryland law also permits the sale of syringes without a prescription. COMAR 10.13.08.01.

A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to conduct an investigative hearing. *See, e.g., Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium,* 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988). Therefore, the Law Department approves this Resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Ashlea Brown Assistant Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Dana P. Moore, Deputy City Solicitor
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Caylin Young, Director of Legislative Services
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervala, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor

CITY OF BALTIMORE COUNCIL BILL 20-0188R (Resolution)

Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Henry, Costello, Burnett, Pinkett, Cohen, Dorsey, Schleifer, Clarke, Middleton, Bullock, Reisinger, Stokes, Sneed Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2020

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Health Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1	A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
2	Informational Hearing – Syringe Service Expansion
3 4 5	FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Fire Department, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the Law Department to explain the status of syringe service programs in the City and the state.
6	Recitals
7 8	WHEREAS , The City Council would like to understand the status of syringe service programs in the City as well as the state;
9 10 11	WHEREAS , The City Council would like to know what the current City and state laws are regarding syringe service programs, including the 2016 state law that expanded syringe services across the state;
12 13	WHEREAS, The City Council would like to know the role of the Health Department and the Health Department's needle exchange in City syringe service programs;
14 15	WHEREAS , The City Council would like to know the role of direct service providers and community organizations in providing syringe services;
16 17	WHEREAS, The City Council would like to better understand the changing nature of state policy on this issue, including the history of syringe service programs in Maryland; and
18 19	WHEREAS , The City Council would like to know what limitations and challenges exist regarding syringe access in Baltimore City.
20 21 22 23	Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Baltimore City Council invites representatives from the Health Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Fire Department, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the Law Department to explain the status of syringe service programs in the City and the state.

Council Bill 20-0188R

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
Director of the Health Department, the Police Commissioner, the Fire Chief, the Director of the
Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the City Solicitor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
City Council.