


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department  AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject: Position:	20-0569 – Street Harassment Advisory Commission <b>FAVORABLE</b>		

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

October 20, 2020

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #20-0569, entitled, “Street Harassment Advisory Commission.” The purpose of this bill is to establish “the Street Harassment Advisory Commission” and “the general purposes and specific duties of the Street Harassment Advisory Commission.”

BCHD believes street harassment is detrimental to the health of all Baltimoreans. While many of the groups identified in 20-0569 have experienced harassment due to their immutable characteristics, two communities, women and LGBTQ individuals, have reported a disproportionate share of street harassment incidents.<sup>1</sup> Reported harassment has ranged from lewd conduct and slurs to physical and sexual violence,<sup>2</sup> all of which pose risks to City residents’ physical and mental health.

BCHD believes residents are entitled to feel safe and respected in public spaces, and this bill will help establish much-needed measures to ensure this is the case. For this reason, BCHD requests a favorable report on Council Bill #20-0569.

<sup>1</sup> The nonprofit Stop Street Harassment’s 2014 survey noted that 65% of its participants had experienced street harassment. The survey also noted, “among men, 25% had been street harassed (a higher percentage of LGBT-identified men than heterosexual men reported this).” Additionally, Statistics. (n.d.) Retrieved October 19, 2020, from <http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/resources/statistics/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.