


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Niles R. Ford, PhD, Chief of Fire Department <i>NRF</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 East Fayette St. _21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #20-0189R Informational Hearing – Overdose Prevention Sites		

**TO** The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President  
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, Room 408

DATE: February 4, 2020

**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 provide information about overdose prevention sites and how they could be established in Baltimore City.

BCFD reviewed Council Bill 20-0189R (Overdose Prevention Sites), and has the following comments:

**Pros:**

- Potential for reduction of HIV and Hepatitis C spread in drug-using communities
- Increased education in disease-spreading behavior such as sharing needles
- Potential for reducing overall disease and death and therefore medical costs
- Reducing public injection and therefore public danger

**Cons:**

- Such proposals are still very new in the United States, and thus not a lot of data
- Such a proposal has the potential to result in an increased EMS call volume in concentrated areas
- Based on a potential perceived “acceptance” of illegal IV drug use may lead to an increased utilization of illegal substances, and potentially higher rates of overdose
- Potentially may violate federal law which makes it a felony to “maintain any place” for using controlled substances

**BCFD’s Position:**

At this point in time, BCFD would not support proceeding with overdose prevention sites in Baltimore.