


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:	21-0030 – Coordinated Multi-Agency Code Inspections NO POSITION		

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

March 3, 2021

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0030, entitled, “Coordinated Multi-Agency Code Inspections.” This bill would, among other provisions, establish a multi-agency inspection team headed by the City administrator to provide a coordinated response whenever a member agency issues certain citations.

At present, there are several mechanisms in place to ensure a coordinated agency response whenever a commercial entity violates City law. Most notably, inspectors from BCHD join inspectors from several other City agencies, including the Department of Housing and Community Development and Fire Department, in weekly coordinated inspections through the Social Club Task Force. This Task Force targets problematic businesses whose violations of City law were either repeat or egregious, or sometimes both.

In 2019, BCHD’s environmental health inspectors issued a total of 174 citations, and of those citations, 40 would require a coordinated agency response under 21-0030. Unfortunately, the Department of Housing and Community Development issued 816 citations that would require BCHD intervention. These additional cases from just this one referring agency would entail a dramatic increase in BCHD inspector workload. For some context, environmental health inspectors would still be responsible for regular state-mandated inspections of food service facilities along with these added responsibilities. To accommodate this increased workload, BCHD estimates at least two additional inspectors would be needed, positions that are not currently included in the budget.

BCHD believes a coordinated approach is needed to address especially egregious violations by businesses of City law, but would appreciate an opportunity to work with the bill sponsor to limit the scope of violations triggering such an expansive response. Likewise, BCHD takes **no position** on Council Bill #21-0030.