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| F R  O M | Name &  Title | Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner | Health Department | BCHDseal |
| Agency  Name &  Address | Health Department  1001 E. Fayette Street  Baltimore, Maryland 21201 | AGENCY REPORT |
| Subject/  Position: | 21-0040R – Informational Hearing - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design  **FAVORABLE** |  |

To: President and Members August 11, 2021

of the City Council

c/o 409 City Hall

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0040R, entitled, “Informational Hearing - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.” This resolution seeks to “discuss ways that the City can prevent crime through the concepts utilized in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design model.”

Housing, neighborhoods, and safety are all considered social determinants of health.[[1]](#footnote-1) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) encompasses all three of these determinants by addressing “social environment” and “building a sense of community” to “reduc[e] the motivations for crime.”[[2]](#footnote-2) CPTED operates on the concept of “collective efficacy” emphasizing grassroots community organizing, similar to Public Health 3.0, a concept championed by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and BCHD.[[3]](#footnote-3) Among other principles, CPTED emphasizes social cohesion, community culture, and connectivity, analogous to Public Health 3.0’s emphasis on an “expanded approach to community-based public health practice.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

Altogether, BCHD believes Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is an innovative approach to addressing key social determinants of health. In future planning, BCHD could serve as a resource to inform actions taken by Baltimore City to implement CPTED. Regardless, BCHD believes a larger conversation involving other City agencies and community partners is first needed and urges a **favorable** report for Council Bill #21-0040R.

1. According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the social determinants of health (SDH) are described as “the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.” Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). *Social Determinants of Health*. Social Determinants of Health - Healthy People 2030. https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CPTED in brief. The International CPTED Association (ICA) - Primer in CPTED - What is CPTED?. https://www.cpted.net/Primer-in-CPTED. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Public Health 3.0: A Call to Action for Public Health to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century*. (2017, September 7). https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2017/17\_0017.htm. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)