

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOSHUA M. SHARFSTEIN, M.D., Commissioner  
210 Guilford Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202

April 19, 2007

Jill J. Dycken  
Environmental Health Scientist  
Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry  
Century Center  
Clairmont Road  
Atlanta GA 30329  
FAX: 404.498.0792

Dear Dr. Dycken,

Today, the Baltimore City Health Department received results of soil sample testing of Swann Park in Baltimore City. These results indicated arsenic levels as high as 2200 parts per million. On the basis of these results, I have asked that the park be closed to the public until further notice.

As we have discussed, I request an urgent assessment of the human health risks of these arsenic levels in the park. I am interested in ATSDR:

- (1) characterizing, to the extent possible, the risks to human health of exposure to Swann Park;
- (2) advising on an appropriate policy for human use of the park; and
- (3) advising on whether human health surveillance is indicated.

I am also interested in any other recommendations or conclusions you may have about the situation. I can facilitate access to information for the assessment.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland Department of the Environment support our request for ATSDR's assistance.

You indicated that an initial assessment with recommendations could be conducted within several weeks. Thank you very much for your prompt assistance in this matter.



I look forward to working together on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joshua M. Sharfstein', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health