

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

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## Swann Park Task Force Announced

**May 7, 2007**—Mayor Sheila Dixon and Health Commissioner Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein are announcing the formation of the Swann Park Task Force. The Task Force will investigate and report to the Mayor on why arsenic contamination in Swann Park is only coming to public attention now and what steps should be taken to avoid such situations in the future.

“The community deserves to know why the Park is the focus of our attention in 2007 and not much sooner,” said Mayor Dixon. “I am pleased that such respected community leaders and national experts are willing to share their time and expertise.”

The Task Force’s five members will be:

- **Lynn R. Goldman.** Dr. Goldman is a pediatrician and Professor of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a national expert in children’s environmental health, public health practice, and chemical regulatory policy. In 1993, Dr. Goldman was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve as Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances at the US Environmental Protection Agency, where she directed the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances from 1993 through 1998.
- **Heather A. Moore.** Ms. Moore is the president of the Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association. She has a masters degree in Education from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, with a concentration in Special Education.
- **George Nilson.** Mr. Nilson is the city solicitor and former deputy attorney general of the State of Maryland.
- **Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein (chair).** Dr. Sharfstein is Commissioner of Health for Baltimore. He is also a pediatrician and a former investigator on the Democratic staff of the Government Reform Committee for Congressman Henry A. Waxman.
- **Stuart Simms.** Mr. Simms is a partner in the law firm of Brown, Goldstein, and Levy. He has served as the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, has led the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and has led the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

The Task Force will review documents from city, state, and federal governments and interview officials who are familiar with the Park. The Task Force will be supported by two technical advisors.

- The scientific technical advisor is **Thomas A. Burke**. Dr. Burke is Professor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Burke has served Deputy Commissioner of Health for the State of New Jersey and Director of Science and Research for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In New Jersey, he directed initiatives that influenced the development of national programs, such as Superfund, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Toxics Release Inventory. Dr. Burke was the inaugural chair of the Advisory Board to the Director of the CDC National Center for Environmental Health and served two terms on the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the National Resource Council (NRC). He has served on several NRC committees; he was chair of the Committee on Human Biomonitoring for Environmental Toxicants, chair of the Committee on Toxicants and Pathogens in Biosolids Applied to Land, and was a member of the Committee on the Toxicological Effects of Methyl Mercury. In 2003, he was designated a lifetime national associate of the National Academies.
- The legal technical advisor is **Rena I. Steinzor**. Professor Steinzor is a tenured professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, where she teaches environmental law. She is the founder and member of the board of the Center for Progressive Reform, which is an organization of academics specializing in the legal, economic, and scientific issues that surround federal regulation. She has also served as an academic fellow at the National Resources Defense Council.

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