



## *Vital Signs* for Baltimore Neighborhoods

### Organizational Endorsement

I, the undersigned, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (Organization name) hereby endorse the *Vital Signs* for Baltimore Neighborhoods to measure progress towards outcomes for Baltimore City neighborhoods over time.

We understand that the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (hereby known as the Alliance) engaged several members of the Baltimore community with diverse interests to assist in developing specific outcome indicators – the “*Vital Signs*” – designed to measure progress towards that common outcomes and results over time. Like doctors who take the “vital signs” to determine the health of a patient, the indicators are Baltimore’s *Vital Signs* to determine progress towards the strength and health of our neighborhoods.

The *Vital Signs* were first introduced to Baltimore City on November 18, 2002, when the Alliance released the first *Vital Signs for Baltimore Neighborhoods* Report. The Report provides the baseline, or starting point from which the Alliance will measure and report on the ups and downs (trends) along the set of indicators – the *Vital Signs* – in years to come, thus providing Baltimore with accurate trends about the changing conditions in our neighborhoods and progress toward common outcomes and results over time. Such a process enables us, as a city of neighborhoods, to celebrate our success, learn from our failures and hold one another accountable for our efforts to rejuvenate the city.

We understand the *Vital Signs* help us understand the conditions and trends for our neighborhoods, families, and neighbors. The *Vital Signs* provide a common yardstick for each of us who are committed to neighborhood change in Baltimore City to measure progress and change over time. Now, each of us can operate on the same page and have a common dialogue from which we can think in new ways to make strategic decisions for long-term progress and work together to move these *Vital Signs* in the right directions.

We understand the *Vital Signs* do not measure specific programs, rather they **provide a common framework** by which all we can know the changing conditions of Baltimore neighborhoods over time; understand the *IMPACT* our actions, strategies, and initiatives have on those conditions; enabling us to address the needs strategically and cooperatively for long-term neighborhood improvement.

Whether its community organizations working to improve their areas, nonprofit groups considering new programs, foundations and corporations targeting their investments, city agencies improving their services, or policy makers considering new courses of action; the *Vital Signs* provide the opportunity to know, and plan for, the long-term impact of these decisions on our city and its neighborhoods. **Just as they measure change in our neighborhoods, these *Vital Signs* will help to hold all of us accountable for our respective roles in strengthening them.**

As stakeholders in Baltimore City, we commit to working towards moving these *Vital Signs* in a direction that promote Baltimore’s progress towards strong neighborhoods, and a thriving, vital city. We understand this means making policy decisions, determining funding priorities, developing community building strategies, and planning neighborhood organizing efforts that consider the long-term impacts on Baltimore neighborhoods as reflected by the *Vital Signs*.

With my signature, we hereby endorse and commit to use the *Vital Signs* for Baltimore Neighborhoods.

We agree to be listed in the update of the *Vital Signs* and the current BNIA Website list as endorsing the *Vital Signs*, and will work with the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance in the appropriate capacity to promote further commitment to using the *Vital Signs*.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail, email or fax back to: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, 218 W. Saratoga Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Suite B, Baltimore, MD 21201*

*p: (410) 235-0944 f:(410) 625-7895 bnia@bnia.org*

*We will send a nice copy back to you so that you are able to display it in your office.*