



F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0012R – Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Environmental Control Board		

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

March 1, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Bill 12-0012R. The purpose of this bill is to clarify the process of issuing fines and citations; address issues of due process, and; to identify measures that can be implemented to make the entire ECB process more transparent and equitable for the residents of Baltimore City.

BCHD issues environmental citations on a regular basis through its various health programs: Animal Control, Environmental Health, and Tobacco Control. The Department wants to ensure that alleged violators have a fair opportunity to be heard by the Environmental Control Board and that all actions taken by the Department in its issuance of citations is fair, equitable and transparent.

In Fiscal Year 2010, Animal Control issued 6,131 citations and the Health Department issued 309 citations. Animal Control citation numbers are kept as a separate statistic due to the number of citations issued each year. In FY 2011, Animal Control issued 3,332 citations and the Health Department issued 200. To date in FY 2012, Animal Control has issued 2,660 citations and the Health Department has issued 90 citations.

BCHD supports any changes that will help to guarantee a fair administrative process, yet supports the continuation of firm enforcement of environmental violations to assist with reducing health violations that persist in the City.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Dr. Evelyn Rodriguez, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health

Comments

