

NAME & TITLE	Rebecca Woods, Esq., Executive Director	CITY of BALTIMORE  <i>MEMO</i>	
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Environmental Control Board 1 North Charles Street, 13th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
SUBJECT	City Council Resolution # 21-0064R Investigational Hearing – Urban Farming		

October 18, 2021

**TO:** The Honorable President and Members  
Of the Baltimore City Council

Dear Mr. President and Members:

The Baltimore City Environmental Control Board (ECB) has been requested to review City Council Resolution # 21-0064R, Investigational Hearing – Urban Farming. The purpose of the resolution is to invite the City Solicitor, representatives from the Office of the City Administrator, the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Code Enforcement Division, the Baltimore City Health Department’s Office of Animal Control, the Baltimore Police Department, the Environmental Control Board, the Department of Planning, and other relevant stakeholders to brief the City Council regard the standards, procedures, policies, and practices for regulating urban farms in Baltimore City, and to discuss possible revisions of current standards to allow urban farms to operate safely and successfully in Baltimore City.

The ECB is an administrative hearing board that adjudicates contested environmental citations. Environmental citations are issued by various City agencies for violations listed under Article 1, Section 40-14. Once issued by a City agency, the cited person, or entity, has approximately thirty (30) days to contest the citation in a hearing. That hearing takes place at the ECB with an Administrative Hearing Officer presiding over the case. This allows for the citation’s review to be done by an agency that is independent from the agency issuing the citation.

Separate from the above mentioned adjudication, the ECB also houses the BMORE Beautiful program, which is a peer to peer beautification program that supports Baltimore City residents and community organizations that wish to clean, beautify, and maintain their own neighborhoods. The main ways that BMORE Beautiful provides support is through awarding grants, providing tools and resources, connecting residents with City services, and educating residents on City Code requirements regarding trash and property maintenance.

Specific to the proposed resolution, the ECB is in favor of discussing the standards, procedures, policies, and practices for regulating urban farms in Baltimore City. The agency’s BMORE Beautiful program has worked with several existing urban farms and has also supported the

establishment of new urban farms. Mainly, we have provided grant funding, recruited volunteers, and hosted gardening series in partnership with community farms.

Considering our background in assisting communities with their urban farming goals, the ECB would be willing to offer any insights that we have gained on this topic while working with communities.

*Rebecca A. Woods*

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