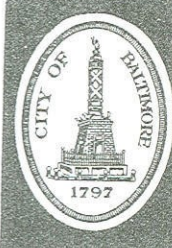


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director <i>SEB</i>	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD 417 East Fayette Street, Room 634		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 09-0274 Unsafe Structures – Enforcement by Citation		

**TO**

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
 President,  
 City Council of Baltimore  
 400 City Hall

DATE:  
 September 24, 2009

The Environmental Control Board (ECB) supports the above Bill for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of environmental citations for violations of the building code provisions governing unsafe structures.

The health and safety of our citizens should be our number one priority. The implementation of this bill, which adds a condition of enforcement by environmental citations, will expedite the proceedings which hold property owners responsible for maintaining their property in a safe condition.

The disregard for safety procedures, regulations, laws, by-laws statues, and monitoring enforcement, has a hazardous effect and endangers the lives of our citizens. Unsafe structures are a health issues in that they provide a haven for illegal activities, which has a profound effect on the Mayor's initiative for a cleaner, greener, and safer environment. These unsafe structures are blight on neighborhoods.

In addition, ECB recognizes the fact that if the building is not brought into compliance within a certain timeframe, unsafe conditions leads to injuries. Currently it takes longer to have the necessary hearings; however environmental penalties are assessed immediately in the form of fines even before a hearing. The hearing is a means to show cause why the fines should not be levied and the burden moves to the Respondent to show compliance to the building inspectors. This method gets the attention of the property owners immediately.

The officers could issue timely warnings and summonses that would lead to fines and sanctions that would bring not only the much needed revenue but public confidence in Baltimore's economic growth in a safe and secure manner.

