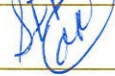
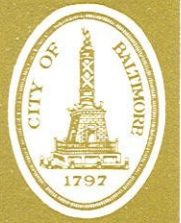


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director 
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD 417 East Fayette Street, Room 634
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill No 08-0231 Health-Smoking On or Adjacent to Hospital Premises

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



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

DATE: January 7, 2009

The Environmental Control Board (**ECB**) supports the above bill for the purpose of prohibiting smoking on or adjacent to hospital premises.

Smokers in general have become increasingly marginalized in recent years as knowledge about the detrimental effects of tobacco smoking on health and longevity increases. ECB believes the health of workers and patrons are the most important factors when it comes to smoking. Since it is quite evident that people going in and out of hospitals may be immunocompromised, they especially should not be exposed to smokers even in a peripheral status.

In addition, studies have shown that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke—smoke exhaled by a smoker and smoke drifting from the end of a cigarette— has become a health hazard to the smoker as well as the non-smoker.

In retrospect, ECB cannot ignore the growing evidence of the effect smoking has not only on the people who smoke, but also on others through passive smoking.

The most positive outcome of the bill is that in all probability it will lead to a decline in smoking overall.

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