

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WANDA S. DURDEN, Director
DR. RALPH W.E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
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May 15, 2009

Honorable President Stephanie Rawlings Blake
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 09-0261**
Land Bank Authority

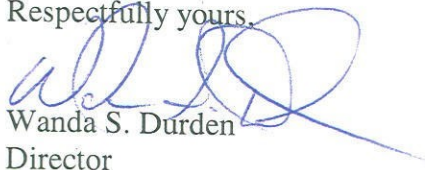
Dear President Rawlings-Blake:

City Council Bill # 09-0261 is for the purpose of establishing the Land Bank Authority of Baltimore City; providing for the Authority's powers, duties, and limitations; providing for a Board of Directors, for the selection and terms of the Board's members, and for the powers and duties of the Board; providing certain immunities; providing certain tax exemptions; and generally relating to the establishment and operation of a Land Bank Authority, as authorized by State Law.

We support this proposed legislation that establishes an entity that will acquire, manage, and sell abandoned property for the purpose of creating a productive use and reason for its existence. Eliminating blight, enhancing neighborhood viability and promoting economic development fortifies communities and the City as a whole. The Department of Recreation and Parks' commitment to supporting citizens through our many neighborhood facilities makes us an integral component in the effort to build strong communities.

Again, the Department of Recreation and Parks **supports Council Bill # 09-0261.**

Respectfully yours,



Wanda S. Durden
Director

WSD:VSO

Cc: **Angela Gibson, Liaison to City Council**

