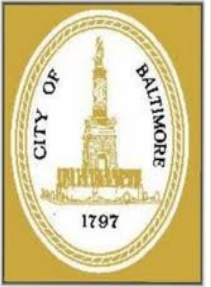


NAME & TITLE	Rebecca Woods, Esq., Executive Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Environmental Control Board 1 North Charles Street, 13th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
SUBJECT	City Council Resolution # 21-0070R Investigational Hearing – Soil Conservation in Baltimore City		

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 # 21-0070R, Investigational Hearing – Soil Conservation in Baltimore City. The purpose of the resolution is to invite representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Sustainability, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Control Board to address their current roles in soil conservation and urban agriculture and servicing Baltimore City's farmers.

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 does not play a direct role in soil conservation; however, the agency's BMORE Beautiful program has worked with existing urban farms and gardens that provide composting opportunities to residents.

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

Rebecca A. Woods

Rebecca A. Woods, Esq.
Executive Director
Environmental Control Board