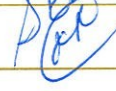



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD 417 East Fayette Street, Room 634		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill No 08-0049 City Trees – Protective Measures		

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

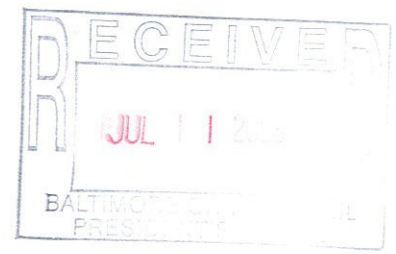
DATE: April 8, 2008

The Environmental Control Board (**ECB**) supports the premise of extending certain laws for the protection of trees along public ways to apply also to trees in parks, squares, and other places. This bill prohibits the excessive or unnecessary cutting, trimming, or pruning of public trees, authorizing the City Arborist to adjudicate complaints of unauthorized or improper treatment of public trees. In addition, this bill will impose civil penalties and remedies for violations, redefining certain terms; increasing certain criminal penalties, conforming agency references to reflect reallocations established by prior enactments; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related language; and generally relating to trees, shrubs and other plants in the public ways and in the parks, squares, and other public places of the City.

Studies conducted by this agency show that trees alter the environment in which we live by moderating climate, improving air quality, and conserving water. In order to preserve and enhance one of the most valuable natural resources of the community and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, ECB concurs that ordinances must be put in place to regulate the planting, removal, and preservation of trees and shrubs on public and private property within the municipality.

Improper treatment of public trees had an adverse affect on the environment, including a decrease in the qualities of our air, water and even our lives. More specifically, tree loss results in water runoff. The extra runoff puts extra strains on our sewer system. Trees provide protection by reducing runoff and erosions,

ECB agrees that anyone failing to adhere to the tree protection policies and specifications outline should be held financially responsible for any resulting damage to trees, in addition to any fines or penalties that may be imposed under relevant by-laws or statues.



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