

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	<b>CITY of</b> <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 12-0012R</b>		

DATE: September 18, 2012

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle  
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 12-0012R introduced by Council Members Branch, Henry, Stokes, Scott, Clarke and Welch.

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Executive Director of the Environmental Control Board, the Housing Commissioner, the Director of Public Works, the Health Commissioner, the Police Commissioner, the Fire Chief, and appropriate personnel to report to the City Council on the workings of the Board; to clarify the purpose and process of issuing fines and citations; to address issues of due process; and to identify measures that can be implemented to make the entire process more transparent and equitable for the residents of Baltimore City.

Ordinance 98-326 established the Environmental Control Board as an independent agency of City government. The Board is comprised of 13 members; 7 are appointed by the mayor, 6 are ex-officio members or their designees, one of which is the Department of Public Works. The Board has authority to hear contested environmental citations for violations of certain sanitation, environmental, health, safety, and other quality of life provisions of law that are issued by Special Enforcement Officers. Hearing officers or panels of Board members conduct the hearings for contested environmental citations. Persons who are aggrieved by a final decision of the Board may appeal their decisions to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, as provided for in the Maryland Rules. Citation recipients do have the option to prepay a specified fine for the violation, as listed in the Baltimore City Revised Code [Article 1 § 40-14(e)], if they do not contest the citation.

The Environmental Control Board was established to address exterior sanitation and other Code violations that were not being corrected in an expeditious manner. Since its establishment in 1998, the Environmental Control Board's list of violations that may receive environmental citations has expanded significantly. Correction of sanitation violations is particularly important as they are detrimental to our communities, foster an air of neglect, and are costly for the City to correct. As requested, representatives of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on City Council Resolution 12-0012R to listen to the concerns and issues expressed to and by the Council committee.

*Alfred H. Foxx*

ALFRED H. FOXX  
DIRECTOR

*Comments*

AHF/MMC:ela

cc: Ms. Marcia Collins

