



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Brittany Vendryes, Esq. <i>BV</i> Executive Director Environmental Control Board
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	September 30, 2025
SUBJECT	Council Bill 25-0014R Informational Hearing – Vacant and Abandoned Garages

Position: Without recommendation

BILL SYNOPSIS

This resolution requires representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to appear before City Council to provide insight into the issue of vacant and abandoned garages in Baltimore City and to discuss strategies, including in rem liens or foreclosures, to manage and control the issue and its impact on safety, aesthetics, and community economics.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Environmental Control Board (ECB) is an independent administrative hearing board that adjudicates contested environmental citations. Environmental citations are issued by various City agencies for violations listed under Baltimore City Code, Article 1, § 40-14(e). DHCD is one of the agencies that issues citations for violations listed under Baltimore City Code, Article 1, § 40-14(e).

The ECB presumes that our inclusion in this resolution is due to DHCD's frequent use of environmental citations as an enforcement mechanism. However, it should be noted that the ECB does not play a role in citation issuance. This agency's hearing process is intended to be neutral between the agency that issued the citation and the person that received the citation. Further, the ECB's hearing process is only triggered *if* the recipient requests a timely hearing.

Considering that the ECB must maintain its neutrality and that the ECB does not get involved until after the citation is issued, we respectfully take the position of **Without Recommendation**.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill is unlikely to have any financial impact on the Environmental Control Board.

AMENDMENTS

None