


F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner <i>Oxiris Barbot</i>	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Resolution – 11-0308R – Investigative Hearing – Maintenance of City Owned Properties		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

September 14, 2011

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Resolution 11-0308R. The purpose of the resolution is to call on representatives from the Department of Public Works (DPW), Health, Housing, Recreation & Parks, and General Services (GS) to appear before the City Council to discuss policies, abatement methods, and public concerns regarding the maintenance of City owned vacant lots and other properties.

BCHD regularly investigates health-related complaints regarding properties, including vacant properties. Complaints relating to vacant properties include standing water, odor, and sewage spills. Should a BCHD sanitarian observe a violation and determine that the property is City-owned, BCHD will inform the appropriate City agency, *i.e.* DPW, Housing, or GS, so that the violation can be addressed and abated.

In addition, BCHD's Animal Control program also investigates complaints regarding vacant properties. Animal Control no longer provides the general public service of picking up live or dead animals. It will, however, pick up dead animals on vacant properties. Also, should an animal be in danger or at risk and located in or on a vacant property, Animal Control will investigate and attempt to save the animal.

BCHD looks forward to working with the City Council to better address concerns with City-owned, vacant properties and welcomes the opportunity to provide more information.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Olivia Farrow, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health

Comments

