

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

WANDA S. DURDEN, Director
DR. RALPH W.E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-6132

February 9, 2009

Honorable President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 09-0272**
Baltimore City Sustainability Plan

Dear President Rawlings-Blake:

The Department of Recreation and Parks **supports** Council Bill #09-0272. The bill is for the purpose of establishing a Sustainability Plan for the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

The Department of Recreation and Parks' mission is to provide diverse recreational, environmental, cultural and educational opportunities that benefit both current and future generations. Our work impacts not only the citizens of Baltimore, but the environment in which they live. Through various programs and initiatives, we engage our citizens in efforts that render a positive impact on their quality of life. Through city-wide clean-ups that increase participation in community maintenance efforts citizens become our partners, as well as engage in stewardship roles.

Our conservation efforts focus on protecting the City's ecosystem. Through our TreeBaltimore program, we work with citizens and other City agencies to realize our goal of doubling the tree canopy by the year 2037. We work to sustain a world-class recreation and parks system and guide in the preservation of open green spaces and natural resources.

Therefore, the Department of Recreation and Parks **supports** Council Bill #09-0272.

Respectfully,

Wanda S. Durden

Director

WSD/VSO:bmw

cc: Angela Gibson, Legislative Liaison to the City Council

