

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Health Department Kicks Off the Southwest Cares Environmental Health Initiative

BALTIMORE, MD – (April 21, 2009) – Interim Commissioner of Health, Olivia Farrow, announced the launch of the Southwest Cares Environmental Health Initiative, an EPA-funded program to improve environmental health in Southwest Baltimore. Partners on the Southwest Cares Environmental Health Initiative include the Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WPNPC), the Bon Secours Foundation, and the Sharp Leadenhall community.

The initiative seeks to improve environmental health in twelve neighborhoods, including Barre Circle, Carrollton Ridge, Hollins Market, Mill Hill, Morrell Park, New Southwest/Mount Clare, Ridgely's Delight, Sharp Leadenhall, the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association, Stadium Area, Union Square, and Washington Village/Pigtown.

“The Health Department is committed to working with residents, businesses, and community organizations in order to improve environmental health,” said Interim Commissioner Farrow. “The initiative is just one part of our broader strategy to improve the health outcomes of our most underserved communities in Baltimore.”

“We will work closely with community members to prioritize environmental health concerns and to develop an innovative, effective action plan to make real changes. Community involvement is critical to the success of this project,” said Sarah Norman, Chief of the City's Lead, Asthma and Injury Prevention Bureau.

The project seeks to create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that improve the local environment in Southwest Baltimore. At the conclusion of the initiative's initial phase, the Southwest Cares Coalition will be eligible to apply for \$250,000 in EPA funds to implement the community's action plan.

For more information about this initiative, please visit the Health Department's website:
www.baltimorehealth.org.

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