

Location:

Illegal open burning by neighbor at **4714 Pilgrim Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214** , Baltimore City, MD. Smoke drifts into **2302 Southern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21214** and triggers asthma.

Description of Incident:

My neighbor, who runs a **landscaping business**, repeatedly burns **commercial debris** (branches, grass, leaves) in their backyard. These fires occur weekdays and weekends, producing **dense smoke** that blows directly onto my property and into my home. My son and I suffer from a physician-diagnosed **asthma**, and each burn causes wheezing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath.

As a City resident, I rely on Baltimore's clean-air and public health protections. This smoke clearly violates local and state air pollution and nuisance laws—even though the burn materials are “organic,” they come from a business and are **not permitted** to be burned. Alternative disposal methods like composting or brush pick-up should be used.

Legal Authority:

- **Baltimore City Health Code, Title 8 (Air Pollution), Subtitle 2 § 8-203** prohibits **any open burning of waste**, unless a narrow exemption applies. This includes burning branches or yard debris in a residential backyard. codes.baltimorecity.gov
- **Maryland Air Quality regulations (COMAR 26.11.06.08 and .09)** prohibit allowing smoke, odors, or emissions to cross property lines in a way that creates a **public nuisance** or **health hazard**, both of which apply here due to my asthma. mde.maryland.gov+7mde.maryland.gov+7mde.maryland.gov+7

Health & Nuisance Impact:

- I have experienced an asthma **attack**.
- Smoke drift occurs while I'm trying to work remotely, in my yard, and live indoors.
- This isn't smoke from a permitted fire or cooking; it's business waste, illegal and avoidable.

Requested Actions:

1. Please **inspect** the property at **4714 Pilgrim Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214** for violations of Baltimore City Code Title 8 § 8-203 concerning **illegal open burning of waste**.
2. If violations are found, issue a **formal notice or correction order** requiring immediate cessation of burning.
3. Advise the homeowner that burning of business-generated debris is **not permitted under any open-burn exemptions**.
4. Encourage the use of legal disposal options in Baltimore City, such as **city leaf/brush collection, composting, private hauling, or permitted disposal facilities**.

Additional Information:

- I have a **medical note** confirming my son's and my asthma diagnosis and smoke sensitivity

Burning Log:

- *August 3, 2025 – 9:00 PM – Heavy smoke for 30 min*

Please assign a **tracking number** and notify me of your findings and next steps. If I'm uncomfortable escalating further, I may submit this to the **Maryland Department of the Environment** under their air-quality nuisance rules (COMAR 26.11.06.08–.09).

Thank you for your help protecting public health and Baltimore's air standards.