



BALTIMORE
HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: December 22, 2008

Re: **City Council Bill 08-0093R Investigative Hearing - Decommissioning,
Dismantling, and Closure of Hazardous Material Sites within Baltimore City**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0093R, which was introduced for the purpose of present the inter-agency coordinated process regarding the identification, decommissioning, dismantling and/or closure of facilities where hazardous materials were produced or used in the manufacturing process; and making certain that the Baltimore City government response to hazardous material handling, disposal, and containment of buildings with a history of hazardous material is sufficient to protect the lives and property of citizens, workers, and visitors in Baltimore City.

DHCD does not have a significant role in the decommissioning, dismantling, and closure of hazardous material sites within Baltimore City. Locations such as these are normally classified as "Brownfields" and fall under the purview of the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC). The BDC manages the reclamation and mitigation efforts at the City's designated brownfield locations in conjunction with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), and the Baltimore Brownfields Industrial Redevelopment Council.

Upon discovering any potentially unattended hazardous material such as chemicals or combustible material located on a vacant property, Baltimore Housing Code Enforcement (HCE) personnel are instructed to report the situation promptly to local fire officials and MDE as well as document their findings in the HCE's inspection database. Additionally, HCE personnel have referred potentially contaminated sites to the Environmental Crimes Unit of the Maryland Attorney General's Office for further investigation and prosecution of violations.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0093R and recommends inviting of the Baltimore Development Corporation and the Maryland Department of the Environment to provide support to this inter-agency coordination.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Andrew Frank

