



# MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS-BLAKE,  
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO,  
Executive Director, HABC  
Commissioner, HCD

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

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: August 5, 2010

Re: **City Council Bill 10-0590 - Rooming Houses – Registration Fee**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0590, which was introduced for the purpose of reinstating an inadvertently repealed license fee for rooming houses and reconstituting it as a registration fee; deleting certain surplus language; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the registration of non-owner-occupied dwellings, rooming houses, and vacant structures.

City Council Bill # 10-516 – “Non-Owner-Occupied Dwellings and Vacant Structures - Multiple-Family Dwellings and Rooming Houses” was enacted on June 24, 2010 and is now Ordinance 10-342. In accordance with Council President Young’s legislative initiative, the new ordinance extended the registration requirements for non-owner-occupied dwelling units to encompass all vacant structures and added an additional annual fee of \$100 to structures subject to a vacant building notice as well. For vacant non-residential structures, which were not previously required to be registered, a new annual fee of \$250 per structure was applied.

Due to a technical oversight, the new registration law inadvertently omitted the licensing requirement for “rooming houses”. Consequently, City Council Bill 10-0590 reinstates this licensing process as a registration fee of \$25 per unit and establishes a \$100 citation penalty for failure to register. This is consistent with the fees and penalties for other structures under the current law.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the swift adoption of City Council Bill 10-0590.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*  
Ms. Diane Hutchins, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*  
Ms. Kaliop Parthemous, *Deputy Mayor*

