



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner *Nadya Morgan* for

Date: July 20, 2020

Re: City Council Bill 20-0237R – Lead By Example

The Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Resolution 20-0237R for the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing & Community Development and relevant code enforcement staff, the head of the Bureau of Solid Waste in the Department of Public Works, the Executive Director of the Environmental Control Board, and representatives from BMORE Beautiful to discuss code enforcement, how we can lead by example by properly maintaining City properties, and the potential opportunities for community engagement and partnership.

In collaboration with other City Agencies and under leadership of the Mayor through the Clean It Up! campaign, DHCD is committed to the cleanliness and the appropriate maintenance of all property in the City of Baltimore to promote the health and safety of our communities. The performance of the City Agencies is coordinated through the Office of Performance and Innovation, which manages CitiStat, and available publicly through the data dashboard at <https://www.baltopi.com/cleanstat>.

DHCD's role in these city-wide efforts include: property inspections, code enforcement, and issuance of citations and notices for conditions such as high grass and weeds, trash and debris, vacant properties and abandoned vehicles on private property. This applies to, but is not limited to, City-owned properties. The completion of work orders generated through these inspections is conducted by other City Agencies. Efforts by the City are further complemented by those undertaken by neighborhoods, community organizations, and other members of the communities who have committed to keeping Baltimore beautiful.

As part of the broader initiative created under the Mayor's Clean It Up! Campaign, DHCD works tirelessly to ensure that Service Requests (SRs) for which the Department is responsible are completed in a timely manner including, but not limited to, those related to City-owned properties achieving an "on time" rate of 99% for inspections of Vacant Buildings and inspections of Trash/Weed SRs, and 73% for investigations of Illegal Dumping SRs. It is also noted that 85% of the Work Orders that DHCD generates for sister Agencies stem from Inspector-initiated, proactive routine inspections of vacant properties, including both City-owned and privately-owned, not the 311 systems or complaints.

DHCD appreciates the opportunity to discuss agency activities around code enforcement with the City Council, and partner Agencies in order to more effectively maintain properties and improve collaboration and communication with the citizens of Baltimore.

Regrettably, the Commissioner will not personally be able to attend the hearing. However, DHCD will be capably represented as part of the Administration's team, led by DHCD's Chief of Operations with the support of the Deputy Commissioner of Permits and Litigation, the Deputy Commissioner of Code Enforcement and Emergency Operations and DHCD's Legislative Liaison.

DHCD takes no position on City Council Bill 20-0237R.

MB:sm

cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*