



**BALTIMORE
HOUSING**

CATHERINE PUGH
Mayor

MICHAEL BRAVERMAN
Acting Executive Director, HABC
Acting Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Michael Braverman, Acting Commissioner

MBA

Date: March 24, 2017

Re: City Council Bill 17-0033 - Building Code – Correcting Definition of
“High-Rise Building”

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0033, for the purpose of deleting from the City Building Code an outdated definition of “high-rise building”, thereby conforming that term’s meaning to the more modern definition adopted by the International Building Code.

If enacted, this bill would update the outdated language in the City BFR Codes by modifying Sections 202 and 403 that references Public Safety Article §9-401, to incorporate Section 403 of the International Building Code (IBC), which is current and more consistent with national codes.

Section 403 of the IBC includes guidance on the construction of high rise buildings, including fire-resistance rating, seismic considerations, structural integrity of exit enclosures and elevator hoistway enclosures, sprinkler systems, and emergency systems.

The Department of Housing and Community Development encourages the passage of City Council Bill 17-0033.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*

