



Catherine Pugh
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Darryl De Sousa
Police Commissioner Designee

February 16, 2018

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 18-0185
Non-Owner-Occupied Dwelling Units, Rooming Houses, and Vacant
Structures – Rental Dwellings – Registration and Licensing**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 18-0185. This legislation is for the purpose of adding certain non-owner-occupied 1- and 2-family dwellings to the licensing, inspection, and related requirements for multi-family dwellings and rooming houses (collectively, “rental dwellings”); modifying the procedures and prerequisites for the registration of certain non-owner-occupied dwellings, rooming houses, and vacant structures; modifying the procedures and prerequisites for the licensing of rental dwellings; providing for the denial, suspension, or revocation of a rental dwelling license under certain circumstances; providing for judicial and appellate review of administrative decisions relating to the registration or the licensing of these structures; amending the underlying definition of “rooming house” to clarify its applicability to a bed and breakfast facility; and conforming related language, providing certain transition rules for pre-existing licenses; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the registration of non-owner-occupied dwellings, rooming houses, and vacant structures and to the licensing of rental dwellings.

The BPD supports this bill.

This legislation, among other things, provides valuable tools for making our City safer. Crime is often a result of underlying factors that give rise to criminal conduct. Unsafe, unhealthy, and unchecked housing – whether vacant or occupied – are examples of such underlying factors.

The BPD looks forward to working with the City Council on this important matter.

Sincerely,

James A. Gillis
Chief of Staff