



November 17, 2022

The Honorable Nick Mosby

Council President

Chair, Committee of the Whole

Baltimore City Council

100 N. Holiday Street, Suite 500

Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Council Bill 22-0195, Inclusionary Housing for Baltimore City

Dear Council President Mosby and members of the Committee of the Whole,

In my capacity as member of the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP Housing Committee, I offer this testimony to urge your favorable vote on Council bill 18-0308 to end housing discrimination based on source of income.

The Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP has been working for over a hundred years to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens and we believe that access to decent, safe, quality, affordable housing is the cornerstone upon which all of these is based. Allowing the Inclusionary Housing law to expire weakens this cornerstone and cements Baltimore's long history of racial and economic segregation.

In order to reverse this state of affairs, we need to expeditiously pass Bill 22-0195 to create homes for Black and Brown folks in communities of opportunity. New developments using city subsidies have been built and are planned which will not include any affordable units. If this bill is not passed, we will forever lose the ability to create a more equitable city. Baltimore has a duty under federal law to affirmatively further fair housing not to passively expect the market to solve this problem. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council issued the Analysis to Impediments to

Fair Housing Choice in 2020 the wherein the only solution identified to address Baltimore's duty was through an inclusionary housing regime. The report also found that creating affordable housing in areas of opportunity was the only way to address racial disparities related to access to quality schools, exposure to environmental hazards, and access to jobs.

Baltimore currently has no inclusionary housing law and therefore we are not living up to the duty to affirmatively furthering fair housing. Every day that we do not have an inclusionary housing regime, we are at risk of having Federal HUD dollars withheld because Baltimore is not following their own plan to affirmatively further fair housing.

Baltimore is behind its peers in other jurisdictions and we should be ashamed. Annapolis, for example, has an inclusionary housing law that requires new subdivisions of 10 or more units to include at least 15% moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs).

The legislation moving through City Council now does not go far enough. We need more than 10% of units in new construction to be affordable in historically white, affluent areas. We need to meet or exceed legislation in peer jurisdictions, require that those units be built on site and reject the notion of a fee in lieu of inclusionary units. The Baltimore Branch of the NAACP requests this Council work with all deliberate speed to pass an inclusionary housing law that addresses the historic segregation, adheres to its responsibility to affirmatively further fair housing, and makes housing available to those most in need.

Sincerely,

Danise Jones-Dorsey

Housing Committee

Baltimore Branch, NAACP