


MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: October 8, 2014

SUBJECT: City Council Bill 14-0432
Food Service Facilities-Mirroring State Law

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) supports City Council Bill 14-0432 – Food Service Facilities – Mirroring State Law.

Currently, all food preparation and distribution, other than home preparation for home consumption, is defined as a “food service facility.” This definition is overbearing: office pot lucks, church food charity drops, bake sales, and small businesses selling non-hazardous foods all currently have a license requirement. These facilities are exempt under State law.

Updating Baltimore City’s definition of a “food service facility” to be in line with the State’s definition will de-criminalize the offering of food at private events and allow non-profit organizations to offer nonhazardous foods to the public--without requiring commercial standards or a food license. Furthermore, the amendment will help “cottage food” businesses grow and thrive in Baltimore City.

cc: Colin Tarbert
Angela Gibson



sandra.blake/ccbill14/14-0432

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