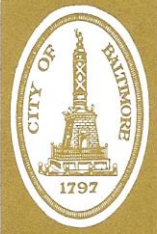


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Christopher Shorter, City Administrator	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of the Mayor 100 N. Holliday Street, Room Baltimore, MD 21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill # 21-0064R Investigational Hearing – Urban Farming		

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

DATE: February 9, 2022

Position: Support

The City Administrators Office (CAO) herein reporting on City Council Bill #21-0064R, Investigational Hearing – Urban Farming. This bill invites the Office of the City Administrator, the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Code Enforcement Division, the Baltimore City Health Department’s Office of Animal Control, the Baltimore Police Department, the Environmental Control Board, the Department of Planning, and other stakeholders to provide the City Council a background on the standards, procedures, policies, and practices for regulating urban farms in Baltimore City as well as to discuss possible changes of current standards to support urban farms in operating safely within the City.

Background

Whereas City Council Bill #21-0064R invites relevant parties and stakeholders to dicuss the current practices and possible accommodations for Urban Farms within the City, there are important and strategic collaborative efforts underway. Outlined by the Office of Sustainability and Department of Housing and Community Development, there is work being done to identify pieces of City-owned land that would be viable for residents to implement urban agriculture and the best ways to financially support them. Furthermore, the Department of Planning’s Food Policy and Planning Division, Department of Recreation and Parks, and the the Farm Alliance of Baltimore are working in conjunction with the Office of Sustainability to support the creation of a new farm training site.

Conclusions:

The Office of the City Administrator supports the relevant agencies and their work in supporting and accommodating the City’s urban farms and ability to nurture new ones. The Office shares the commitment to broaden access to land and community gardens to address historic disinvestment and support the efforts of the relevant agencies for a more equitable Baltimore.