



BALTIMORE HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABCD
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: March 24, 2008

Re: City Council Bill 08-0024R Task Force on Noise Laws and Enforcement

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0024R, which was introduced for the purpose of establishing the Baltimore City Noise Law Task Force to study the potential for an overhaul of the City's current noise laws and the feasibility of creating a more defined, easily enforced, and encompassing noise law for the City of Baltimore.

Housing inspectors and police receive regular complaints from residents regarding noise in their neighborhood. Whether it be the reverberating music from a college rowhouse party or cafe down the street, the loud voices of next-door neighbors arguing on a front stoop late into the night, or the conversations of bar patrons catching a quick smoke outside, these disturbances are a nuisance to residents and may violate the Building, Fire and Related Codes of Baltimore City. Unfortunately, these code provisions often prove very difficult to enforce. A thorough review and potential overhaul of our existing ordinances regarding noise would be helpful to both city officials and residents.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0024R.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Demaune Millard

