



# MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS-BLAKE

PAUL T. GRAZIANO

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

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: May 8, 2014

Re: **City Council Bill 14 - 0358**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 14-0358, which was introduced for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain property known as 31 South Payson Street (Block 0224, Lot 016) and no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

The property is located on the northeastern corner of the intersection with Frederick Avenue, and extends north to the intersection with Hollins Street. The property is improved by a two-story building that was used as part of the Enock Pratt Free Library system. When this branch of the library closed, the property was transferred to HCD via the surplus program.

If City Council Bill 14-0358 is adopted it would allow HCD the authority to sell the vacant property through a competitive process. The competitive process would provide all interested parties an opportunity to submit offers and creative proposals for review to insure the highest and best use for redevelopment and compatibility with the neighborhood.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 14-0358.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*  
Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, *Deputy Chief*

