



BALTIMORE CITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner

Date: August 20, 2020

**Re: City Council Bill 20-0593 Tax Sales - Properties Exempt from Sale**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0593 for the purpose of directing the Director of Finance to withhold certain properties from tax sale; defining certain terms; requiring that the Director of Finance adopt regulations to implement the requirements of this section; requiring that the Director of Finance submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council; and generally implementing the authority provided by Section 14-811(f) of the State Tax-Property Article.

If enacted, the Director of Finance shall withhold from tax sale a dwelling owned by a homeowner who has resided in the dwelling for at least 3 years and, either; has a combined income of less than \$40,000, is at least 65 years old, or is an adult currently receiving disability benefits from SSI. Additionally, the dwelling must be assessed at \$250,000 or less.

DHCD's Division of Homeownership and Housing Preservation, Tax Sale Coordination and Prevention Services program, assists homeowners in avoiding tax sale and in understanding the tax sale process by; promoting tax sale clinics, conducting community-based information sessions and connecting homeowners with additional resources such as state and city tax credits.

City Council Bill 20-0593 supports DHCD's objectives to protect legacy and low-income homeowners and preserve stable communities.

DHCD has **no objection** to the passage of City Council Bill 20-0593.

MB:sm

cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*