



MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE.

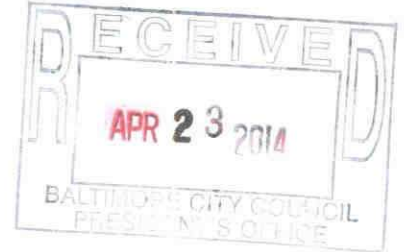
PAUL T. GRAZIANO.

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

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: April 22, 2014

Re: **City Council Bill 14 – 0159R**



The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Resolution 14-0159R which was introduced for the purpose of calling on the City and external agencies concerned with homelessness in Baltimore to appear before the City Council to discuss the HUD Audit of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing grant.

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) grant was provided to the Office of Human Services and even though Baltimore Housing is concerned with homelessness, this agency did not receive any of the funding and was not involved in the administration of the grant.

It was encouraging to hear the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development say, during a recent visit to Baltimore that the HPRP grant funds were spent on the City's Homeless population but documentation was not always adequate to determine if those programs were eligible for funding from the HPRP grant.

HCD administers several programs that support the Mayor's 10 year plan to end homelessness. For example:

- Identifying housing and providing funding for rent, security deposit and/or furniture for families that are in need due to fire, evictions, uninhabitable property, or foreclosure
- Providing temporary hotel accommodations and food for displaced families due to fire/emergency relocations
- Assisting the Department of Social Service with financial assistance for those in need of housing

Additionally, as of December 31, 2013, over 25,000 families were receiving assistance through the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) with over 10,000 families in public housing and over 15,000 families participating in the housing choice voucher program. HABC also has several programs that target the homeless population. These programs include:

- Setting aside vouchers for the chronically homeless, ex-offenders, families of children with elevated blood-lead levels, families at risk of having children placed in out-of-home care and homeless veterans and their families
- Partnering with the other city agencies, shelters and non-profits to employ and house homeless singles/families into self-sufficiency

Baltimore Housing is pleased to provide information on HCD and HABC programs that support the end to homelessness in the City.

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