

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council

c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Janet Abrahams, Executive Director

Date: November 18, 2019

Re: City Council Bill 19-0451 Biennial Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0451 for the purpose of requiring that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice present to the City Council a biennial comprehensive crime reduction plan; specifying that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice develop the plan in consultation with certain agencies; establishing the contents of the plan; and requiring the publication of the plan on the City's website for public comment.

The Bill calls for the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to develop this plan in direct consultation with numerous City and State agencies, including HABC. The required Plan shall analyze existing criminal justice data; assess policing practices; assess holistic, non-policing efforts aimed at crime reduction; report on any public engagement measures taken or to be taken to assist in crime reduction; assess public attitudes and public education regarding criminal justice issues; and establish goals, priorities, and standards for the reduction of crime and the improvement of the administration of justice in the city.

HABC provides federally funded housing programs and related services for Baltimore's lowincome households. Though our Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs, HABC serves approximately 43,000 residents, including some of the city's most vulnerable populations such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, veterans and families with children. The safety and security of those we serve is a top priority for HABC, and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies in developing a crime reduction plan for Baltimore City.