


MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
Attention: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

**FROM:** William Cole, President and CEO 

**DATE:** September 10, 2014

**SUBJECT:** City Council Bill 14-0420  
Property Tax Credits—Urban Agriculture

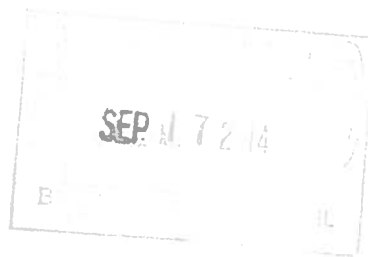
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The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 14-0420 - Property Tax Credits for Urban Agriculture.

The proposed tax credit has potential to turn neighborhood liabilities into neighborhood assets and to increase food access and food security in Baltimore City. Undesirable land speculation is prevented by requiring continuous agriculture production of a property for five years. In addition, we advise adding a ceiling to the credit to deter large or high value lots from being held and farmed for the primary purpose of receiving the credit.

We respectfully defer to the Office of Sustainability and the Department of Finance for information regarding the number of expected tax credit applicants, the subsequent revenue lost from the credit; and a detailed explanation of how product value and proper use of the credit will be documented and enforced.

cc: Colin Tarbert  
Angela Gibson



sandra blake/cch/14-0420

*Fav w/comm*

**Austin, Natawna B.**

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**From:** Snidal, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2014 4:39 PM  
**To:** Austin, Natawna B.  
**Subject:** BDC re: City Council Bill 14-0420

Natawna,

As discussed the BDC supports the legislation with comments. Would this make it more clear?:

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 14-0420 - Property Tax Credits for Urban Agriculture.

The proposed tax credit has potential to turn neighborhood liabilities into neighborhood assets and to increase food access and food security in Baltimore City. Undesirable land speculation is prevented by requiring continuous agriculture production of a property for five years.

We respectfully suggest the Office of Sustainability and the Department of Finance share with the legislature the number of expected tax credit applicants, the subsequent revenue lost from the credit; and a detailed explanation of how product value and proper use of the credit will be documented and enforced. In addition, we advise adding a ceiling to the credit to deter large or high value lots from being held and farmed for the primary purpose of receiving the credit.

**Michael Snidal**  
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