

The 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: April 2, 2018

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0184 – City Council Bill 18-0184 – Zoning – Use Regulation – Health-Care Clinics**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0184, for the purpose of providing that health-care clinics in the C-1, C-1-VC, C-1-E, C-2, and C-3 Zoning Districts require conditional use approval by Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council.

If enacted, this bill would change the approval process for the establishments of health-care clinics in certain Zoning Codes. Currently, health-care clinics are Conditional by the Board in C-1, C-1-VC and C-1-E and permitted in C-2, C-3, C-4 and C-5. This bill would change the requirements for health-care clinics to Conditional by Ordinance in the C-1, C-1-VC, C-1-E, C-2 and C-3 and retain permitted use in C-4 and C-5.

HCD supports the current approval process for the establishment of health-care clinics as outlined in the new zoning code for Baltimore City. The definition of health care clinics in the zoning code is very broad and it is defined as “a facility for the examination and treatment of individuals or an outpatient basis by 1 or more physicians, dentists, chiropractors, physical therapists, or other licensed healthcare practitioners”. Adding additional approval time for health-care clinics in certain zoning districts could possibly deter potential facilities from being established in communities and result in an unintended consequence of preventing equitable and reasonable access to health care for City residents.

The Department of Housing and Community Development agrees with the Planning Commission and does not support the passage of City Council Bill 18-0184.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*