




MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President & CEO 

DATE: January 25, 2018

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 18-0178
Indoor Smoking – Hookah Lounges

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 18-0178 for the purpose of excepting hookah lounges from the City's indoor-smoking restrictions, subject to certain conditions; repealing two obsolete exceptions that have been preempted by more stringent State law and, as such, are invalid; and generally relating to the operation of hookah lounges.

Baltimore City's indoor smoking law prohibits the smoking of tobacco and other substances indoors and the intent of this ordinance is to make exception for hookah lounges within Baltimore City. Such exception may have serious public health and public safety implications, therefore, BDC respectfully defers to the Baltimore City Health Department and the Baltimore City Fire Department.

CC: Kyron Banks