



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: February 22, 2023

Re: City Council Resolution 22-0131R Informational Hearing - Animal Abuse

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Resolution 22-0131R for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Health Department, the Office of Animal Control, Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to brief the City Council on the City's current resources, protections, and capabilities to address and mitigate animal abuse, as well as the role and responsibilities of the Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission.

DHCD is pleased to participate in an informational hearing to discuss the current resources, protections, and capabilities to address and mitigate animal abuse, as well as the role and responsibilities of the Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to research and advise on ways to eradicate animal abuse, increase awareness of animal cruelty laws, legislation to protect animals and prosecute abusers, training on how to handle animal abuse cases humanely and assure best collection of evidence to prosecute abusers, foster improved responses to incidences of animal cruelty, and methods for improved training for animal control officers for their protection and the protection of the animals.

DHCD is not a member of the Commission. We do not perform any specific services directly related to anti-animal abuse but indirectly we issue notices and citations for animal waste and DHCD Code Enforcement refers suspected cases of animal abuse to the Health Department. We stand by ready to assist the Commission with the performance of their duties to the extent possible through our existing budget and personnel.

We recognize the value of mitigating animal abuse and defer to the Baltimore City Health Department and the Chair of the Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission in providing further detail.

The Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully **defers to BCHD** on City Council Resolution 22-0131R.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor | **Alice Kennedy**, Housing Commissioner

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