



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: April 4, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 23-0331 Supplementary General Fund Capital Appropriation - Department of Housing and Community Development - \$11,000,000

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0331 for the purpose of providing a Supplementary General Fund Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$11,000,000.00 to the Department of Housing and Community Development - PRJ002439 (Vacants Initiative), to provide funding for the vacants initiative; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, this supplemental appropriation of \$11,000,000.00 will be made available to the Department of Housing and Community Development as a Supplementary General Fund Capital Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023, to provide funding for the vacants initiative.

DHCD recognizes the blighting influence city owned and privately-owned, vacant properties have on our communities and the hardships they can impose on adjacent residential properties. We are committed to implementing the Scott Administration's 30-day vacancy recommendations in partnership with the City Solicitor's Office, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Finance.

DHCD has been working in partnership with the Administration to implement the vacants initiative. This supplemental appropriation will bolster a full suite of in-house activities such as Acquisition, Disposition, Code Enforcement, Housing Preservation, HUD Formula Grant Administration, Permitting, Rental Licensing, Property Registration, Receivership Filings, Emergency Housing Services, Project Finance, Planned & Emergency Demolition & Stabilization of vacant properties.

This supplemental request is supported by a surplus of revenue in the General Fund in Fiscal 2022, specifically in revenue generated from income and transfer taxes. We look forward to attending the hearing and answering any questions the Council may have.

DHCD respectfully request a **favorable** report and passage of City Council Bill 23-0331.

AK/sm

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

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

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