

## MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner *AK*

Date: October 6, 2020

### Re: City Council Bill 20-0629 Prevailing Wage - Determination

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0629 for the purpose of simplifying the manner by which the City determines its prevailing wage for construction contracts by indexing with the prevailing hour wage established under State law for State-financed construction work performed in the City; and providing for a rate review procedure after the initial rate establishment.

If enacted, City Council Bill 20-0629 would repeal and re-ordain with amendments Article 5 of the Baltimore City Code and would simplify the way in which the City determines its prevailing wage for construction contracts, doing so, by indexing with the prevailing hourly wage established under State law.

The Board of Estimates is currently tasked with adopting, reviewing, and revising, on a yearly basis, the schedules of prevailing hourly wage rates to be paid to all classes of laborers, mechanics, or apprentices directly employed by any contractor or any subcontractor on the site. City Council Bill 20-0629 would require that the prevailing wage rate be established by the Maryland State Commissioner of Labor and Industry under 17-201 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

Montgomery County already follows the state's prevailing wage assessment and Baltimore County recently introduced legislation that would do the same.

**DHCD has no objection** to the passage of City Council Bill 20-0629.

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cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*