



## 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: November 12, 2020

### **Re: City Council Resolution 20-0218R Recognizing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Resolution 20-0218R for the purpose of recognizing systemic racism as a public health crisis.

If adopted, City Council Resolution 20-0218R would recognize systemic racism as a public health crisis. DHCD supports the intent of this Resolution and is committed to overcoming the systemic barriers that have prevented equitable community development for all Baltimoreans. Equity in housing and community development must begin with acknowledgement that the history of slavery and systemic racism is undeniably woven into the fabric of present conditions.

DHCD developed the Community Development Framework to guide future community development with a particular focus on promoting access and equity. That means: ensuring community voices are central to shaping neighborhood redevelopment; minimizing the displacement that can occur with rising values; supporting existing homeowners and residents to help them stay in their homes; maximizing Baltimoreans' access to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities created by reinvestment; and prioritizing affordable housing in neighborhood revitalization efforts from the outset, not as an afterthought. In these ways, DHCD is committed to equitable and inclusive redevelopment.

DHCD **supports** the passage of Council Resolution 20-0218R recognizing systemic racism as a public health crisis and recommends that it be approved by the City Council.

AK:sm

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