



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner *M Braverman*

Date: January 21, 2020

Re: **City Council Resolution 19-0165R B-more Clean: Coordinated Agency Community Clean-up and Maintenance Strategy**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0165R for the purpose of requesting that the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Commissioner of the Health Department, and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation present to the City Council a plan for coordinated community clean-up and maintenance throughout Baltimore and a plan for increased community involvement.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), is working to revitalize communities throughout Baltimore by coordinating with communities and City agencies to address clean-up and maintenance needs.

Code Enforcement

DHCD provides a variety of services for Baltimore City residents. When a complaint comes into the 311 system it is routed to the appropriate agency for investigation. DHCD's Housing Code Enforcement inspectors are the "eyes for the City," they respond to a variety of issues including but not limited to; property code enforcement issues like high grass and weeds, trash and debris, vacant properties and abandoned vehicles on private property. DHCD does not control the outcome of a request but are the first to respond to a complaint. DHCD has 79 Housing Code Enforcement inspectors who responded to 266,000 SRs last year. In FY 19 Code Enforcement completed more than 90% of inspections on time. DHCD exceeded the Service Level Agreement of 15 days by completing most inspections in typically under 4 days.

Illegal Dumping

DHCD's Special Investigations Unit is a dedicated unit which identifies and locates illegal dumpers in Baltimore and helps prosecute them for their crimes. Last year DHCD's Special Investigations Unit responded to over 9,000 complaints of illegal dumping leading to the issuance of 1,200 dumping citations.

Grants

The Coldstream Homestead Montebello CDC (CHM) received a \$25,000 2019 Community Catalyst Grants (CCG) Operating Grant and \$25,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to establish a clean and green program around the 2700 Tivoly Avenue development site. The program includes a workforce development component. CHM is working with DPW's Bureau of Solid Waste and has leveraged City funds as part of an award with the Weinberg Foundation.

Through the Park Heights Slots Revenue, Park Heights Renaissance (PHR) receives an annual operating grant that typically includes an allocation to support the organization's efforts to clean and maintain vacant lots, with a focus on the 62-acre Major Redevelopment Area. PHR's staff includes a dedicated Clean and Green coordinator and local residents who receive training in safety, equipment uses and cleaning protocols. Slots revenue has also been used to support the purchase of commercial vehicles and equipment and is leveraged with other private funds.

Outreach Materials

DHCD's Permits and Litigation, Special Investigations Unit "SIU" developed "Dumping is a crime," a resource guide to illegal dumping. The guide defines illegal dumping, lists the impacts on the community, explains the work of the SIU and lists potential repercussions faced by those charged with illegal dumping. The handout also describes the Small Haulers Program and lists ways and locations for citizens to legally dispose of items.

DHCD's "Sanitation Guide," developed in partnership with the Department of Public Works covers trash day procedures, proper container storage, recycling day tips, tenant responsibilities and the bulk trash program.

Neighborhood Cabinet

The Mayor's office has created a "Neighborhood Cabinet" to coordinate community development activities across agencies. Cross agency coordination increases efficiency, aligns expenditures, engenders urgency, fosters holistic solutions and provides a forum for problem solving and innovation – while constantly tracking progress.

The Neighborhood Cabinet brings together executive-level staff from the departments of Housing and Community Development, Planning, Transportation, Public Works, Recreation and Parks, and Health; the Housing Authority of Baltimore City; the Baltimore Police Department; Baltimore Development Corp.; the Mayor's Office of Employment Development; and Baltimore City Public Schools, among others.

The Cabinet is structured as seven cross-agency Work Groups that carry out project level coordination and report to the executive level Cabinet on a quarterly basis for performance management and high-level strategizing. There are four geographically defined Work Groups, one for each Impact Investment Area, and three for citywide priority topics: Green Network/Asset Building, Middle Neighborhoods and Retail Corridors.

Neighborhood leaders and elected officials attend Cabinet and Work Group sessions, guide the vision, inform the work with local knowledge and ensure plans align with community needs.

DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Resolution 19-0165R.

MB:sm

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