



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner

MB

Date: November 6, 2019

Re: **City Council Bill 19-0451 Biennial Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0451 for the purpose of requiring that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice present to the City Council a biennial comprehensive crime reduction plan; specifying that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice develop the plan in consultation with certain agencies; establishing the contents of the plan; and requiring the publication of the plan on the City's website for public comment.

If enacted, this bill will create a new Subtitle in Article 1 to be called, "Subtitle 29. Crime Reduction," which would require that on or before June 30th of each even numbered year that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) present to the City Council a comprehensive crime reduction strategy for the subsequent 2 years. This strategy shall be developed by MOCJ in consultation with several Departments and Offices at the City and State level.

The plan shall include an examination of existing criminal justice data, an assessment of policing practices and holistic non-policing efforts aimed at crime reduction. The plan shall report on any public engagement measures taken, or to be taken, to assist in crime reduction and assess public attitudes and educational efforts regarding criminal justice issues. Additionally, the plan will establish goals, priorities and standards for the reduction of crime and the improvement of the administration of justice in the City. The plan will be posted for public comment for at least 30 days prior to its submission to the City Council and comments received shall be included with the plan upon submission.

DHCD works to improve the quality of life for all Baltimore City residents by revitalizing and redeveloping communities and ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing opportunities in safe, livable and decent neighborhoods. DHCD works to ensure safe conditions throughout communities through code enforcement tools. Remediating blight through demolition and stabilization remains a high priority for enhancing public safety and improving quality of life in distressed areas.

DHCD looks forward to the opportunity to work with MOCJ in developing its biennial Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan and **supports** the passage of City Council Bill 19-0451.

MB:sm

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