


FROM	NAME & TITLE	MIRIAM AVINS & REBBECCA BAKRE Co-Chairs, Commission on Sustainability	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #18-0223 – Equity Assessment Program		

DATE:

TO

June 11, 2018

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

The Commission on Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #18-0223 for the purpose of providing for the implementation of an Equity Assessment Program for Baltimore City, and generally relating to the goal of eliminating structural and institutional racism and other forms of discrimination based on immutable characteristics.

The Commission has taken equity as the cornerstone of the draft 2018 Baltimore Sustainability Plan (as released for public comment on April 11, 2018). In that document, the use of an equity lens is described as “essential for a sustainable future” and as a way to broaden the meaning of sustainability to that of “a vision that is meaningful for all residents in the city.” Specifically, the draft Plan asserts:

We cannot meaningfully work for sustainability without deliberately addressing enduring social, economic, and environmental disadvantages that people experience based on their race, ethnicity, and class.

The Bill, as currently written, has limited detail on the development and implementation of the Equity Assessment Program. The Commission recommends that implementation be phased, giving sufficient time to develop the elements of the Program and to comprehensively implement it. Such phasing would also allow time to provide equity and other trainings to agency personnel necessary to create and maintain a successful Program. The Commission notes that there is limited detail on how the agency equity coordinators will be selected as well as on the accountability of the Program, particularly when an issue is identified without a clear remedy or resources available to address it.

It was the consensus of the Commission on Sustainability to fully support City Council Bill # 18-0223 and encourage consideration of the above revisions.

On June 7, 2018, the Commission on Sustainability called a vote by email regarding this legislation: Support/In-Favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor’s Office
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor’s Office
Mr. Thomas J. Stosur, Department of Planning