



BALTIMORE
HOUSING

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

FROM: Paul T. Graziano
Housing Commissioner

DATE: April 7, 2011

SUBJECT: **City Council Bill 11-0242R Informational Hearing** – Baltimore City Tax Lien Certificate Sales

The Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed City Council Bill 11-0242R. This Bill requests the Director of Finance and the Chief of the Bureau of Revenue Collections to report to the City Council on the Tax Lien Certificate Sale Program; to present an outline of the foreclosure process; to explain the fees collected or paid by all parties involved in the redemption or forfeiture of a property; and to give a final accounting of the disposition of all proceeds from the sale of forfeited property.

The sale of tax lien certificates is a vital means of revenue collection for the City. It is crucial that the process both be, and be perceived, as transparent, fair, and efficient. This resolution offers a great opportunity to assure that those goals are being met. It will also allow for a review of the current system to see that it is in step with best practices and best serves the City's needs in this difficult economic environment.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports adoption of City Council Bill 11-0242R.

PTG:JD

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, Deputy Mayor

