



**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, *Commissioner*

Date: February 18, 2010

Re: **City Council Bill 10-0446 - Public Ethics Law - Clarifications and Expanded Coverage**

Baltimore Housing has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0446, which was introduced for the purpose of redefining and clarifying certain terms within the Public Ethics Law as applicable to certain prohibited acts, required disclosures, and other ethics regulation; and clarifying and expanding the scope of public officials and employees to whom certain prohibitions apply.

This proposed legislation would clarify and better define the ethics regulations governing public servants by requiring him or her to disqualify themselves from any matter involving a entity engaged in business with the City which the public servant has a financial interest or a relative that has a similar interest. City Council Bill 10-0446 further defines "Business with the City" to include individuals who are in the process of negotiating a contract with an agency of City government.

The proposed legislation does not appear to conflict with any of the current policies or operations of either the Department of Housing and Community Development or the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and we support the adoption of City Council Bill 10-0446 as a necessary and positive clarification to our City's ethics law.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Diane Hutchins, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Andrew Frank, *First Deputy Mayor*

