



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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: July 11, 2019

Re: **City Council Bill 19-0359: Open-Space Zoning Districts - Tree Canopy Preservation**

The Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0359, for the purpose of requiring the approval of the Forestry Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks prior to any tree removal on certain properties within a Baltimore City Open-Space Zoning District; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, this bill would require the Forestry Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks to certify that the removal of a healthy tree from private property in an Open Space zoning district would not significantly impact the city's tree canopy.

DHCD agrees with the goal of preserving Baltimore City's tree canopy, along with other greenery throughout the city. DHCD recommends that the Council consider adding guidelines for assessing the impact of a tree's removal and a mechanism under the Zoning Code by which the Forestry Division can review and approve tree removals in Open Space districts.

DHCD has no objection to the passage of City Council Bill 19-0359, with amendments.

MB:td

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Amoros, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Eric Tiso, *Department of Planning*
Ms. Amy Gilder-Busatti, *Office of Sustainability*
Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, *Office of Councilwoman Clarke*
Ms. Jenny Morgan, *Department of Recreation and Parks*
Mr. Erik M. Dihle, *Department of Recreation and Parks*