

21-0172 – Baltimore City Legacy Residents –  
Urban Homesteading Program

I am proposing 3 changes to the amendments

The age requirement should be lowered to 16 years old. If a 16 year old can be trialed as an adult in Baltimore city, then a 16 year old should be able to receive a house in the city.

Completely drop the criminal background check requirements. If someone served their time then they have paid their debt to society.

The grant amount should be increased from 25k to 50k.

I stand in support of Bill 210172. The city council should unanimously pass the legislative measure. I was raised in Baltimore; I am eager to see the city restored to its full potential. The historical practice of redlining has comprised the ability of former city home owners to create generational wealth. City constituents are being bamboozled out of their properties. This is creating a housing crisis. Many of the vacant properties that taint the cities once vibrant landscape were illegally seized by the Baltimore City's Sheriff's Office. Illegally evictions add fuel to the practice of redlining because city constituents are denied their right to bureaucratic and judicial processes. "Due process" is a constitutional right!

A foreclosure does not necessitate an immediate eviction. Many of these illegal evictions are orchestrated by community development block grant overseers. They have intel on the financial status of every home within the community in which they operate. Every neighborhood in Baltimore has one, even the vacant riddled neighborhoods.

Sometimes these individuals are known as the CDA of local communities. The CDA knows who is in foreclosure and who is not. These individuals have powerful connections and can arrange for someone to show up at your door dressed in a sheriff's uniform and leave a notice demanding that you vacate your property. This actually happened to me on Dec 3, 2018 at the home I owned located at 3809 rokeby road. I was told to leave immediately or I would be arrested for trespassing. It was so traumatizing to be kicked out of my home 2 weeks before my daughters 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas and forced to move into Sarah's house, a homeless shelter. To any member who opposes this bill, this not retribution measure of the disenfranchised. This bill is not giving away home for free. No deserves to live for free. This bill is disrupting the rental income pipeline for the more affluent members of city and that's why some of yall on this counsel are afraid of this bill. In order for the affluent members of the city to carry on with their American dream, someone has to live at the American nightmare. Paying 1600, 1700, 1800 in rent each month in order to live in sandtown is a nightmare. People are already underwater by paying a ridicules amount of rent each month.

If you have ever received an inheritance, allowance, business, horses, boats, vehicles, stocks, bonds, trust fund, contractor tools, bat mitzvah, jewels or “drug corner” real-estate from your “family’s generational wealth system” then consider yourself blessed.

But, don’t dare insist people need to be more self-sufficient. Don’t say people need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. The laces that you use to strap those boots were given to you. The boots were given to you. Some people come from absolutely nothing.

Please pass this bill to right the wrongs of redlining.

Sherri Pendleton

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