



BALTIMORE HOUSING

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

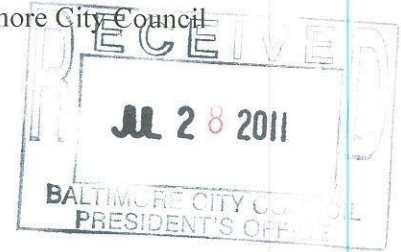
MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

DATE: July 28, 2011

SUBJECT: **Council Bill 11 – 0295R – Resolution to Establish a Lead Abatement Review Commission**



Thank you for inviting the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide a report on City Council 11-0295R – a resolution to establish a Lead Abatement Review Commission in the City of Baltimore, appointed by the Mayor. Starting April 1, 2011 the responsibility for managing the City's lead abatement program shifted from the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) to HCD, and in particular, HCD's Division of Green, Healthy, and Sustainable Homes. HCD welcomes the recommendation to create a commission to advice, support, and strengthen HCD's Lead Abatement Program. The commission's role in assisting to develop an annual report to the Mayor and City Council on the status of Baltimore's lead abatement efforts is also a welcome recommendation.

Within the first four months of HCD's management of the Lead Abatement Program, the following progress is noteworthy:

- HCD met with federal, state, and nonprofit organization staff to assess the past, present, and future of abatement in Baltimore City.
- HCD restructured the lead abatement program with key personnel using local Community Development Block Grant funds.
- On June 10, 2011, HCD submitted a federal application requesting \$2,950,000 over three years to abate lead paint in 210 houses. A federal decision is expected in August.
- On June 29, 2011 the Board of Estimates approved acceptance of \$1.68 million in State capital funding to abate lead in 112 houses over the next twelve months.
- HCD meets every two weeks with the Baltimore City Health Department and the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning to assess current lead abatement cases and new referrals.

As HCD continues to rebuild the City's Lead Abatement Program, the agency and the



staff can certainly benefit from the input, advice, and guidance of a commission representing a cross-section of expertise and interests. HCD supports Council Bill 11-0295R.

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*

Ms. Kaliopé Parthemos, *Deputy Mayor*