



BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 19, 2021

The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, Council President
Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0031 – Landlord-Tenant – Lease Renewals

Dear Honorable President and Members of the City Council:

After careful consideration, I have chosen to allow City Council Bill 21-0031 go into law without my signature pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Baltimore City Charter.

City Council Bill 21-0031 requires landlords to temporarily offer tenants an option to renew their lease at least 75 days and no more than 100 days in advance of their lease's expiration date with certain provisions. I applaud the 13th District Councilman Antonio Glover for sponsoring this bill to reduce the burden on Baltimore City residents as they attempt to secure stable housing on the heels of the pandemic.

Ensuring residents have the ability to temporarily remain in their homes after the eviction moratorium is lifted helps preserve individual security and maintains the long-term stability of Baltimore's most historic communities.

Though well-intended and temporary in nature, the bill has failed to meet the Law Department's threshold for legal form and sufficiency as certain provisions conflict with state law embodied in several sections of the Public Local Law of Baltimore City. More specifically, there are doubts about the City's authority to implement and enforce this bill's provisions locally due to the significant state law governing this subject.

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS) is the lead agency for implementing the City's eviction prevention program. To date, the agency has provided \$20M in back rent assistance to more than 4,000 families and intervened in hundreds of eviction cases. In addition, the eviction prevention program leverages the support of multiple city agencies and partners with community stakeholders including the United Way of Central MD, the Public Justice Center, and trusted partners in

the immigrant community to provide a full complement of services focused on housing stability. Finally, MOCFS will launch the Security Deposit Assistance program in September. To that end, my Administration is committed to using every available resource to ensure that families are safe and stable.

My Administration will continue to work alongside you to implement long-term solutions to avert a housing crisis that can withstand legal scrutiny. I look forward to working with you and the Council to address housing security and other important issues plaguing our residents.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon M. Scott".

Brandon M. Scott

Mayor

City of Baltimore