



## MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

DATE: September 26, 2014

RE: **City Council Bill 14-0420**

The Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed City Council Bill 14-0420, for the purpose of establishing a property tax credit for urban agricultural property; providing for the amount, duration, and possible early termination of the credit; imposing certain limitations, conditions, and qualification; providing for the administration of the credit; requiring that the credit be repaid under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the property tax credit for urban agricultural property.

If this bill is enacted, it would provide property tax relief for commercial farms on privately-owned land within the city. Currently, rural farms over three acres receive a property tax discount so this tax credit bill would provide an equal financial benefit for the smaller urban farms. The intent of the bill also supports Strategy 6 of Vacants to Value by promoting the productive reuse of vacant land to support neighborhood revitalization.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 14-0420.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*  
Mr. Colin Tarbert, *Deputy Mayor*



