



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 11, 2026  
**TO:** Public Health & Environment Committee  
**FROM:** Otis Rolley, President and CEO  
**POSITION:** Defer to Planning Commission  
**SUBJECT:** Council Bill 26-0161

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on Baltimore City Council Bill 26-0161: Natural Resources – Forest & Tree Conservation – Conforming Amendments introduced by the Council President.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this bill is to alter the Baltimore City Code's Forest and Tree Conservation provisions by integrating changes made to the Maryland Forest and Tree Conservation Act which were enacted at the state level and are set to go into effect on July 1, 2026.

### **BRIEF HISTORY**

The Maryland Forest and Tree Conservation Act is intended to protect trees and prevent canopy loss primarily associated with construction and development projects. Baltimore City's Forest Conservation Program enacts these protections at the local level. BDC supports the policy goals of these programs and is aligned with the City's stated goal of increasing tree canopy coverage from the current level of 28% to 40% by 2037. The Department of Planning's Office of Sustainability is tasked with overseeing and implementing the Forest Conservation Program at the local level. BDC supports the analysis and recommendations laid out in the Planning Commission Staff Report from April 23, 2026.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

### **AGENCY POSITION**

The Baltimore Development Corporation respectfully defers to Planning Commission on City Council Bill 25-0161. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Whelley at 410-837-9305 or [tom.whelley@baltimoredevelopment.com](mailto:tom.whelley@baltimoredevelopment.com).

cc: Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

[TW]