


FROM	NAME & TITLE	BETH STROMMEN, DIRECTOR BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY <i>BOS</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 th Floor		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILLS 14-0303 AND 14-0304 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT		

TO

DATE:

February 7, 2014

The Honorable President and Members of City Council
City Hall 4th floor
100 N. Holliday Street

Please be advised of the following comments offered on behalf of the Baltimore Office of Sustainability (CoS). The CoS has reviewed the City Council Bill #14-0303/Floodplain Management Code – Revision and City Council Bill #14-0304 Floodplain Management Code – Cross References and Corrections and is offering the following comments.

City Council Bill #'s 14-0303 and 14-0304 accomplishes four actions: 1) Adoption of the new Flood Insurance Rate Map; 2) Adoption the updated Flood Insurance Study; 3) Modification of regulatory language governing floodplain development, and 4) Alignment of floodplain development code with other adopted Baltimore City development codes.

Adoption of these bills will ensure the City of Baltimore's continued eligibility within the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP provides the maps and regulatory basis for local floodplain management. It is also the primary source of insurance protection for flood-prone properties.

The new flood hazard maps and data will be beneficial in the following ways:

- Community Planners and local officials will have a better understanding of the flood hazards and risks that affect their community and can consequently improve local planning activities.
- Builders and developers will have access to more detailed information for making decisions on where to build and how construction can affect local flood hazard areas.
- Insurance agents, insurance companies, real estate agents and lending institutions will have easy online access to updates and upcoming changes, allowing them to serve their customers and community more effectively.
- Home and business owners will be able to make better financial decisions about protecting their properties.
- By adopting more stringent standards than the minimum set by FEMA, Baltimore will be taking steps to reduce Flood Insurance Premiums for our citizens.
- By regulating development in both the 100 year and 500 year designated floodplains, Baltimore will be building our resilience to sea level rise.

In addition to the map changes, these bills update the floodplain development code and align it with other City development Codes. These updates clarify regulations, construction requirements and administrative procedures. This text update will provide a

clearer, more predictable process for development within the floodplain and it will align with Federal and State regulations.

The Office of Sustainability recommends support of City Council Bill #14-0303/Floodplain Management Code – Revision and City Council Bill #14-0304 Floodplain Management Code – Cross-References and Corrections.

CC:

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