



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 Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: October 24, 2016

Re: **City Council Bill 15-0555 Coal Tar Pavement Products – Prohibition on Use or Sale**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 15-0555, for the purpose of prohibiting the use or sale in the City of coal tar pavement products; defining certain terms; providing for the publication of alternative pavement products that do not contain coal tar; imposing certain penalties; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, this bill would prevent any “person” from using a product that contains coal tar to cover an asphalt or concrete surface in the City, including a driveway or parking area. It would also prevent anyone from selling a coal tar pavement product in the City. The bill indicates that HCD is responsible to administer and enforce the provisions of this bill and publish a list of alternative pavement products that could be used on asphalt and concrete.

We understand the potential environmental concerns that might be caused by the use of coal tar sealers and pavement products and would support federal or state legislation prohibiting the use or sale of products that might contain hazardous materials. We cannot support this bill as written because HCD does not have sufficient resources to enforce the provisions, it would be difficult to enforce and HCD does not have the necessary expertise to provide a listing of alternative pavement products that could be used on asphalt and concrete.

The Department of Housing and Community Development strongly opposes the passage of City Council Bill 15-0555.

PTG:sd

OPPOSES

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

