



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 21, 2016

Re: **City Council Bill 16-0728 Discounted City Services and Equipment for Nonprofit Events**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0728, for the purpose of requiring that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event; and generally relating to the provision of City support to nonprofit events.

If enacted, this bill would require HCD to reduce fees by 50% for services necessary to support events sponsored by non-profits. Currently, we waive the permit fees for special events and for temporary electrical wiring work associated with such events, if the proceeds are to be used exclusively for the benefit of nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable or religious organizations and documentation of their status is provided. However, due to the resources necessary to approve temporary structures, we require everyone to pay a \$50 filing fee to cover the inspection of temporary structures.

We would like to continue to implement our current program that allows us to provide free or reduced services, as appropriate, to support events sponsored by nonprofit organizations.

The Department of Housing and Community Development does not support the passage of City Council Bill 16-0728.

PTG:sd

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

