



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 28, 2015

Re: **City Council Bill 15-0565 - Personal Property Tax Credits – Food Desert Incentive Areas**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 15-0565, for the purpose of establishing a tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on qualified supermarkets in Food Desert Incentive Areas; imposing certain limitations, conditions, and qualifications for credit eligibility; providing for the amount, duration, and administration of the credit; defining certain terms; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to a personal property tax credit for certain supermarkets.

If enacted, this bill would provide incentives to encourage the establishment of supermarkets in neighborhoods that are located in areas known as food deserts. The establishment of supermarkets that provide healthy food choices in food deserts would not only provide employment opportunities but also help improve the quality of life for many residents in the city.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 15-0565.

PTG:sd

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

