





TO

The Honorable President and Members of the City Council City Hall, Room 400 DATE:

December 15, 2021

Position: Without Recommendation

The Department of Real Estate is offering comments on City Council Bill 21-0174 Baltimore City Senior Homeowners Grant Program.

Pursuant to the City Charter, the Department of Real Estate (DORE) is responsible for acquisitions, disposition and leasing of City property and maintaining an inventory of City-owned property.

As the Council takes up its deliberations on 21-0174, it may be beneficial to understand that the DoRE is currently engaged in a comprehensive effort, in collaboration with the City's Department of Housing and Community Development, to rationalize and streamline the process for managing and disposing of Cityowned properties, including vacant house and lots. As this cooperative effort proceeds, the DoRE stands ready to work with the Council and any other stakeholders to develop and implement creative and equitable approaches to increasing affordable homeownership for City residents regardless of age, length of residency, and economic status.

The Department of Real Estate is *without recommendation* 21-0174. Instead, we hope these comments support a productive theoretical discussion of City housing policy.

If you have any questions, please contact KC Kelleher, Director of Communications in the Office of the Comptroller at KC.Kelleher@baltimorecity.gov.

CC: Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff to Comptroller Henry

Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office