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GEDCO Programs

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CARES
CARES Career Connection
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Gallagher Mansion
Micah House
Senior Network of North Baltimore
Stadium Place

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Nichole Battle, CEO
Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation

RE: Support for 22-0195- Inclusionary Housing for Baltimore City

Please accept this written testimony in support of the proposed inclusionary housing bill for Baltimore City. As a Baltimore City resident and affordable housing developer for over 25 years, I have seen development/construction in Baltimore at its most active state and at its lowest. There was a period when mixed income housing and community development was seen as a problem and was being addressed by for profit and non-profit partnerships as well as public and private partnerships.

As a believer that everyone deserves safe, decent, and housing that is affordable, having an inclusionary housing bill is imperative for the success of our city. When one among us is in need, we will all suffer. Providing housing that is affordable to all is not just one business sector's responsibility, it is every business sector's responsibility. Housing should be treated as a right and not a privilege. And today, inadequate housing supply is a major driver of inflation, with rents contributing significantly to recent inflation. In a recent article read, "the pain of rising housing costs is most acutely felt by those with the lowest incomes". I am hopeful that others who live and work in the city feel the same and that this bill will pass.