

22-0195 Inclusionary Housing Testimony

One of the most rewarding and meaningful events in my life was the purchase of my first home in Baltimore City. It meant a lot to me because it was in a community of my choice near markets, schools, and businesses that gave me a quality of life that was good for my new bride and raising our young family. So, in a state as rich as Maryland with economic opportunities flourishing, why shouldn't anyone be able to live where their aspirations take them to give their family a good quality of life? Inclusionary Housing simply says that if you give the average individual access to the necessities of life, food, shelter, and education, they will flourish. So, location matters when it comes to education, advancement, and excelling.

The 22-0915 Inclusionary Housing Policy is designed to provide affordable housing options in areas that are typically out of reach for many residents due to low income, transportation, and or perception. And perception is more volatile than it is given credit. If you have been trained through systematic practices that you don't belong in a certain community, your drive to live there diminishes and you begin to settle for less. For example, the practice of redlining began in the state of Maryland, and it continues to be an issue that is inherent to where people of color live. This was highlighted by Dr. Lawrence Brown in his study entitled, *Baltimore's Black Butterfly and White L*. Dr. Brown was able to graphically identify hypersegregation in Baltimore using five key metrics: child poverty, internet access, commute time, investment in small businesses, and unemployment.¹

“Baltimore is a city that is hypersegregated into two parts. Because of 105 years of racist policies and practices, Baltimore’s hypersegregated neighborhoods experience radically different realities. Due to this dynamic, the white neighborhoods on the map that form the shape of an 'L' accumulate structured advantages, while Black neighborhoods, shaped in the form of a butterfly, accumulate structured disadvantages. Baltimore’s hypersegregation is the root cause of racial inequity, crime, health inequities/disparities, and civil unrest.”²

This current administration has the power, with the 22-0915 Inclusionary Housing Policy, to correct the civil rights issue of equal housing for every citizen in Baltimore. The question is do you have the will? I urge you to vote in favor of 22-0915 Inclusionary Housing Policy with Amendments by Councilwoman Odette Ramos.

Sincerely,

Marlon Tilghman

Rev. Dr. Marlon Tilghman

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Contact 443-629-7363

¹ Brown, Lawrence, *Dr. Lawrence Brown; Baltimore's Black Butterfly and White L*, Tableau, [Dr. Lawrence Brown: Baltimore's Black Butterfly and White L \(tableau.com\)](http://Dr.LawrenceBrown.com)

² Brown, Lawrence, *Two Baltimores: The White L vs. Black Butterfly*, Baltimore Sun Paper, June 28, 2016, [Two Baltimores: The White L vs. the Black Butterfly – Baltimore Sun](http://TwoBaltimores.com).