

11/17/22

To: Members of the Baltimore City Council

RE: Bill number CC 22-0195
Inclusionary Housing for Baltimore City

Dear Members of the City Council,

While I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the construction of this bill by external advocates and Councilwoman Odette Ramos's office, I must urge you to vote against it.

The bill uses targeting that identifies families with incomes of 60-80% of the AMI (Area Median Income). These are families that can afford market-rate rent. What the bill fails to include are the poorest and most vulnerable of our neighbors: those with incomes of 30% of the AMI or below. These are the families who are routinely trudging to rent court, and whose belongings are frequently put out on the sidewalk. The homeless shelters are jammed; it is impossible to locate an available bed for those in need of emergency shelter.

As the Housing Authority of Baltimore has eliminated thousands of low-income units over the past decade, the 30% AMI and below families are the ones who cannot find an affordable place to live.

In order to be inclusive as possible, the bill must be amended to allow 50% of the units created by inclusionary zoning to go to this extremely needy population.

Thanks for your attention.

Lauren Siegel, LCSW-C
Social Worker and Baltimore City resident