



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: November 1, 2022

Re: City Council Bill 22-0282 Urban Renewal - Oliver - Amendment ____

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0282 for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Oliver to reauthorize the acquisition of properties within the Project Area, to extend the life of the Plan, and to remove certain properties from the list in Appendices B and C; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

Pursuant to Maryland Code, Real Property, § 12-015.1, which was enacted in 2007, authority to acquire property by eminent domain must be renewed after 4 years if it has not been exercised. The City's Urban Renewal Plans (URPs) are the primary source of acquisition authority for various properties in areas where the City is addressing vacant lots and buildings, and encouraging or catalyzing community-based redevelopment efforts. DHCD is the steward for many URPs that would be affected by an expiration of acquisition authority, and is therefore seeking to renew such authority where it is still needed. Additionally, some URPs expire in their entirety at the end of 2022, which could eliminate the authority to sell the properties that have already been acquired pursuant to the URPs. Therefore, DHCD is also seeking to extend some URP plans altogether.

If enacted, Council Bill 22-0282 would reauthorize the acquisition, extend the life of the URP, and remove certain properties already sold for redevelopment pursuant to the URP.

At its regular meeting of October 13, 2022, the Planning Commission declined to adopt the recommendations of the planning staff, and neither recommended nor negatively reported Bill 22-0282. If Bill 22-0282 were approved it would reauthorize the acquisition authority for the properties identified in the URP and would extend the URP through December 31, 2026, allowing DHCD to sell the properties already in its inventory for redevelopment, and remove from the list those properties that have already been sold.

DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Bill 22-0282.



AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*