



BALTIMORE HOUSING

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: July 18, 2016

Re: **City Council Bill 16-0705 - Building, Fire, and Related Codes – Liability and Lien for Expenses**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0705, FOR the purpose of providing that the provisions governing liability and liens for and collection of expenditures incurred by the Building Official in connection with enforcement of the Building Code apply also to expenditures incurred by State departments, agencies, units, and entities in connection with that enforcement.

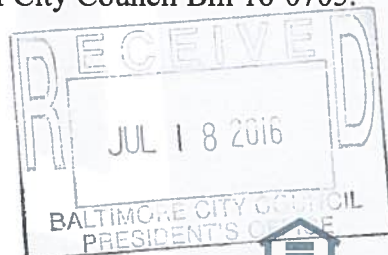
If enacted, this bill would amend Section 118 of the Building, Fire and Related Codes which applies to the liability for expenses and collection of debts and liens.

Currently, Section 118 of the Building, Fire and Related Codes allows any expenses related to the actions by the "Building Official" that are necessary for enforcement of the building code to be a city lien on the property. HCD would like to amend the code to allow the city to place a lien on the property for expenses incurred by any department, agency, unit, or body corporate and politic of Maryland, including the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) in support of HCD's demolition efforts.

The MSA is an active partner in Project C.O.R.E. (Creating Opportunities for Renewal and Enterprise), which is a State Program focused on blight elimination in the City. This amendment would allow any expenses incurred by the MSA in support of demolition activity in the City to be placed as a city lien on the property.

The Department of Housing and Community Development encourages the passage of City Council Bill 16-0705.

PTG:sd



cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Colin Tarbert, *Deputy Mayor*