

The Baltimore City Department of
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner



Date: November 15, 2017

Re: **City Council Bill 17-0144 – Discounted City Services and Equipment for Nonprofit Events.**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0144, for the purpose of requiring that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event; and generally relating to the provision of City support to nonprofit events.

If enacted, this bill would result in the reduction of fees for City services and Equipment to support events sponsors by nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable or religious organizations. The required permit and application fees for annual or short-term events are listed in Section 109 of the Building, Fire, and Related Codes (BFRC). Currently, the permit fees are waived for special events and for temporary electrical wiring work necessary at special events if the proceeds from the event are to be used exclusively for the benefit of a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable or religious organizations and the permit application includes evidence documenting the applicant's qualifications. In FY 2017 there were 43 temporary event permits issued in which the fees were waived totaling \$4,259.

However, HCD's permit fee for temporary structures includes the inspection of the structures (tents, stages, etc.) that exceed 120 square feet. In FY 2017, 31 permits were issued for temporary events that required the inspection of a temporary structure. Of those 31 permits, six permits were issued for special events that qualified for waived event fees but were required to pay the fee for the temporary structure. The permits fees are based on the size of the temporary structure and the following six organizations paid a total of \$2,060 in inspection fees:

- Infinity Supportive Services, Inc.
- General council on Finance & Administration of the United Methodist Church
- Open Works, Inc.
- The Ulman Fund, Inc.
- Active Social Communities, Inc.
- United States Conference of Catholic bishops

HCD would support the bill with an amendment allowing the charging of fees for special events to continue to be in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Building, Fire, and Related Codes.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*