

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: May 10, 2018

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0193 - Food Desert Incentive Areas – Expenditure Requirements for Tax Credit**

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The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0193, for the purpose of establishing a new minimum expenditure requirement for substantially renovated supermarkets that is lower than the expenditure requirement for newly constructed supermarkets; and generally relating to the qualifications for a tax credit granted to certain supermarkets in a Food Desert Incentive Area.

If enacted, this bill would support the retention of existing grocery stores in certain areas of the City by reducing the threshold of investment required during renovations through the development of a tiered requirement that is based on the size of the store.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 18-0193.

MB:sd

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