

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 *MB*

Date: May 18, 2018

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0241 - Urban Renewal – Druid Heights – Amendment _**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0241 for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan (URP) for Druid Heights to reauthorize the acquisition of properties within the Project Area and to extend the life of the Plan; 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.

If enacted, this bill would extend the life of the URP and reauthorize the Plan's powers of acquisition and condemnation for another four years, until December 31, 2022 so that these actions may legally continue, in compliance with § 12-105.1 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Without this reauthorization, the authority to acquire property under the Plan will terminate on December 31, 2018.

The renewal of the acquisition authority and the extension of the plan are important to assist with addressing the concentration of blight and facilitating the rehabilitation and reinvestment of the neighborhood in accordance with the Druid Heights URP.

The Department of Housing and Community Development strongly encourages the passage of City Council Bill 18-0241.

MB:sd

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