


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: June 7, 2018

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0223 - Equity Assessment Program**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0223, for the purpose of providing for the implementation of an Equity Assessment Program for Baltimore City, to be developed and overseen by the Department of Planning; requiring City agencies to assess existing and proposed policies and practices for disparate outcomes based on race, gender, or income and to proactively develop policies, practices, and investments to prevent and redress those disparate outcomes; defining certain terms; providing for the adoption of rules and regulations to carry out this Program; requiring certain notices and reports; and generally relating to the goal of eliminating structural and institutional racism and other forms of discrimination based on immutable characteristics.

HCD welcomes the opportunity to further our efforts in providing safe, healthy and affordable housing for all residents. We have a variety of tools that are used to support all neighborhoods and to expand housing choices, and adding an equity lens will only strengthen our work and add to our toolbox. HCD looks forward to learning more about the equity program and enhancing any programs to further support the City's equity program goals.

The Department of Housing and Community Development agrees with the concept of the bill and supports the amendments approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting on May 31, 2018. We also recommend that agencies work collaboratively with Council to ensure any new unfunded requirements are manageable within existing resources.

MB:sd

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