

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 19, 2018

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0259 - Fire Code – Repealing Appendix D**

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The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0259, for the purpose of amending the City Fire Code to repeal Appendix D {“Fire Apparatus Access Roads”}; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, this bill would amend the City Fire Code to remove Appendix D (Fire Apparatus Access Roads), which was designed as a tool for local jurisdictions to use as guidance in establishing fire equipment access requirements. Appendix D provides additional detailed information that supports the information in Chapter 5 (Fire Service Features), Section 503 (Fire Apparatus Access Roads) of the City Fire Code.

HCD is aware that recent changes to the Fire Department’s enforcement of the minimum width provisions in the Fire Code have resulted in a dampening influence on development and the creation of design constraints for many projects throughout the City.

HCD is supportive of the need to develop an approach for balancing development with the need for public safety and the ability to provide adequate emergency services for residents that does not represent unrealistic standards for an older City.

The Department of Housing and Community Development does not support the bill in its current form and would recommend that amendments to the Bill be developed through a deliberative inclusive process to satisfy critical implementing agencies, such as the Departments of Housing, Planning, Transportation, and the Baltimore City Fire Department.

MB:sd

cc: Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*