




## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: October 22, 2018

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 18-0293  
Baltimore Tourism Improvement District - Establishment

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The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 18-0293, an ordinance to establish the Baltimore Tourism Improvement District within Baltimore City.

It is widely known that Baltimore City is more than just a home to residents and businesses. The City is recognized as a cultural and tourism center for the State of Maryland. These tourism, arts, entertainment, cultural, and recreation businesses contribute to the economic growth of the City, region, and state providing jobs, wages, and tax revenue.

The creation of a Tourism Improvement District, that encompasses all of Baltimore City, would solidify the importance of this industry to the continued economic vitality of the City. The establishment and funding for this District would provide necessary services and revenues to maintain and improve all aspects of tourism available in Baltimore City. While only those businesses identified as being a hotel would be assessed a Tourism District fee, it can be argued that these businesses could potentially benefit the most from visitors and tourists as they partake in the numerous tourism-related activities found throughout the City.

BDC supports the ordinance and requests that the bill be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Kyron Banks