

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner AK

Date: October 7, 2020

Re: City Council Bill 20-0569 Street Harassment Advisory Commission

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0569 for the purpose of establishing the Street Harassment Advisory Commission; providing for the Commission's composition, terms of office, officers, meetings, quorum, and rules of procedure; establishing the general purposes and specific duties of the Street Harassment Advisory Commission; defining certain terms; requiring certain City agencies to adopt model policies and training materials developed by the Street Harassment Advisory Commission; and generally relating to the Street Harassment Advisory Commission.

If enacted, City Council Bill 20-0569 would add a new subtitle to Article 1 of the Baltimore City Code titled "Street Harassment Advisory Commission" and require certain City agencies, including DHCD, to adopt and implement model policies and training materials developed by the Commission.

DHCD supports the purposes of the Baltimore City Street Harassment Advisory Commission, which are; to increase general awareness and the need for prevention of the problem of street harassment, identify categories most at risk of experiencing street harassment, create model policies and training materials to assist agencies in reducing the instances of street harassment and assist agencies in implementing these model policies and training materials.

Victims and witnesses of street harassment including; disrespectful, offensive, or threatening statements, gestures, or other such conduct, should report the instances of harassment to the Baltimore City Police Department.

DHCD would like to offer a friendly amendment to include "Source of Income" to the definition of Street Harassment on page 3 of the Bill.

DHCD supports the passage of City Council Bill 20-0569.

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cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*