

Coates, Jennifer (City Council)

From: Watson, Carolyn (DHCD)
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Office of Council Services
Subject: Economic and Community Development Committee 210001R, 21-008, 21-0021, 21-0022

Thank You for being able to attend your WebEx session not only as an employee of Baltimore city DHCD AHTF team, but as a community resident still concerned about the plight of the Afro-American neighboring communities in this 21st century.

This was a session that was critical in the lives of all those that are experiencing the COVID 19 pandemic economic results of lack of funds in/for housing stability. The above four bills formulated by the city council holds major factors in keeping tenant/landlord rental contract agreements transparent and in adherence to fair housing practices.

In working in several non-profit and for-profit community revitalization projects as a Relocation Specialist in the East Baltimore Development, Broadway East, Historic East Baltimore Community, Middle East projects in East Baltimore. It had its difficulties, successes and unsuccess both for renters and homeowners who got a variation of housing chooses from rentals to homeownership, senior new homes and/or senior housing for the elderly renter's rental units and housing choice vouchers and new all received new environments to live. But, one thing made it not so good due to landlord's saw it as an opportunity and means to raise rents, double security deposits because of credit issues with allot of the renters and even in homeownerships with seniors and those qualifying biases were applied to those not with favorable credit backgrounds.

What we need is governing bills and policies that will hold both tenants and landlords accountable to the laws that have been established and an advocacy targeted grassroot organization that will lend its expertise in contract agreements to assist the layperson and residential onsite representatives, before and after to monitor, advise, counsel and direct folks in the right paths to living, investing, and keeping transparency always at the forefront.

Keep up the good work in government and making our communities decent, safe and transparent for all to be investors in it.

Carolyn E. Watson
Community Aide - Administration
DHCD - Affordable Housing Trust Fund
417 E. Fayette Street Rm. 1001
Baltimore, MD 21202
P: 443-984-3272
F: 410-396-1667

