

Coates, Jennifer (City Council)

From: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Coates, Jennifer (City Council)
Cc: Stokes, Robert (City Council); Messer, Nicole M. (City Council)
Subject: FW: Help Baltimore renters NOW

Hi Jennifer,

The two (2) bills are assigned to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

Councilman Stokes,

I am forwarding your request to Jennifer Coates, she is assigned to the committee for the bills below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stokes, Robert (City Council) <Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council) <Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: Messer, Nicole M. (City Council) <Nicole.Messer@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: FW: Help Baltimore renters NOW

Marguerite Bill File

-----Original Message-----

From: aogurick2001@everyactionadvocacy.com <aogurick2001@everyactionadvocacy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Stokes, Robert (City Council) <Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Help Baltimore renters NOW

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Dear Council Member Robert Stokes,

I am writing as your constituent to thank you for supporting renters in Baltimore City, by introducing legislation that will make it easier for renters to secure housing, and to stay in their homes. We need to help Baltimore residents secure housing, and stay in their homes, and CB21-0021 and CB21-0022 will both help achieve this goal.

If passed with the Council President's amendments, CB21-0021 will require landlords to implement a ten-day grace period for late fees. Furthermore, for those who receive a monthly government benefit such as SSI or SSDI, CB21-0021 will require landlords to offer the tenant a 10-day grace period starting from the date the benefit is paid or mailed. This will ease some of the financial burden many renters are facing. I support CB21-0021 with the Council President's amendments, and I urge you to as well.

If passed, CB21-0022 will allow for renters to provide alternatives to a traditional security deposit. I and the Baltimore Renters United coalition want to see this bill amended to only allow for an option to pay security deposits as installments, and to remove the option for security deposit insurance and surety bonds. Paying a security deposit in

installments will make housing more accessible for more Baltimoreans, and will help ensure that security deposit rates cannot be used as another form of red lining. However, including the option to buy insurance or a bond in lieu of a security deposit should not be included in the bill. These new types of insurance are predatory, and unlike a security deposit, renters don't get their money back at the end of the tenancy and could be sued for property damage with less protection than if a landlord sued them. The Better Business Bureau also reflects the poor practices of these types of businesses. Further, the Council President's amendments will allow debts to be collected as "additional rent" in rent court - something we strongly disagree with - only the rent (the amount due according to a lease each month) should be collectible in rent court, which is something we and our partners have been fighting for, for years. I urge you to support CB21-0022 with the amendment to strike the provisions that allow corporations to prey on renters.

As your constituent, I would like to thank you again for your work on CB21-0021 and CB21-0022, and ask that you advocate for the bills in their strongest form.

Sincerely,

Ms. Arlene Ogurick

333 E 30th St Baltimore, MD 21218-3933

aogurick2001@yahoo.com