

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: May 13, 2021

Re: **City Council Resolution 21-0028R Informational Hearing – Baltimore’s Plan for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness and Residing in Hotels During the Pandemic**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Resolution 21-0028R, for the purpose of inviting the Acting Director of the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services (MOHS), the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS), the City Administrator, the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the advocacy groups Housing Our Neighbors and Homeless Persons Representation Project to brief and advise the City Council as to: the overall outcomes for neighbors experiencing homelessness who were able to reside in the hotels; what is next for them; assistance for those experiencing homelessness in encampments during the crisis; and the availability of programs to access housing.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Baltimore initiated a rapid rehousing program to house those experiencing homelessness in hotels. The program is run by MOHS, in coordination with DHCD, MOCFS, non-profit providers, and HABC. The working group is focused on housing neighbors in temporary hotels and transitioning these individuals to permanent supportive housing when available. A member of DHCD’s Senior Leadership team participates in a biweekly workgroup to discuss rapid rehousing efforts and support MOHS effort. DHCD has provided training to non-profit providers and MOHS on how to register properties and search properties to expedite their own work.

DHCD defers to MOHS in providing further details on the status of neighbors residing in temporary hotels. Moving forward, as the City of Baltimore exits the COVID-19 pandemic, assistance to provide permanent supportive housing will come from MOHS and HABC. On occasion, DHCD assists residents impacted by emergencies, such as fire, in finding temporary, but not long-term housing

DHCD is pleased to address the Council at an informational hearing to discuss the City’s plan for our unhoused neighbors residing in hotels during the pandemic. We look forward to finding a solution to keep our residents experiencing homelessness safe and in housing.

DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Resolution 21-0028R



AK:mn

cc: Ms. Themelis, Nina, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*