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MAYOR

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HB 0131

March 21, 2024

TO: Members of the Education Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill HB 0131 – Housing Development Permit Applications – Local Reporting Requirements

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** House Bill (HB) 0131

HB 0131 will require local jurisdictions with at least 150,000 residents to report certain information for each building or development permit application that includes a residential housing component as part of the development to the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning on or before July 1 each year. The local jurisdiction must also make a copy of the report publicly available on its website.

In 2023, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development's Permits and Litigation Division received 40,340 permit applications. Baltimore City DHCD works diligently to review and issue applications in a timely manner as well as assist customers throughout the process. We would be able to report on most of the items required in the Bill, such as the total number of complete applications received by type, the total number of complete applications issued, the total number of complete applications rejected, and the net total number of residential units approved. However, other reporting requirements, such as those on page 2, lines 16 through line 20, would be extremely burdensome; therefore, we request striking them from the bill.

The issuance of permits and timing is dependent on so many factors outside of the control of the issuing jurisdiction. This includes but is not limited to the type of permit being applied for, the complexity of the work, the geographic location, the competency of the applicant, and the speed at which the applicant wants to move forward. All of this will impact the mean and medium time for obtaining a permit.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable with amendment** report on HB 0131.