

**NICK J. MOSBY**  
*Council President*



100 Holiday Street, Suite 400  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
410-593-4804 • Fax 410-539-0647  
council.president@baltimorecity.gov

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

March 9, 2021

To: **Members of the House Ways and Means Committee**  
Re: **HB 1320 – Baltimore City - Property Taxes - Authority to Set Special Rates**  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Kaiser and Honorable Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 1320, Baltimore City – Property Taxes – Authority to Set Special Rates. If passed, this bill enables Baltimore City government to establish special property tax rates for any class or subclass of real property, which may include a special rate for vacant properties.

Vacant properties pose a serious threat to development and revitalization efforts within the City. There are an estimated 16,000 vacant properties in Baltimore City. Many of these properties, through years of neglect, have since deteriorated contributing to the blight we see predominately in our historically disenfranchised neighborhoods. Blight can cause serious risks to neighboring residents due to the hazardous conditions they pose, increase in crime, and decline in surrounding property value. Numerous efforts have been made to address the City's vacant property issues; however, elected officials have been limited in their ability to apply pressure on property owners because of the inability to establish special property tax rates for owners that allow their properties remain unoccupied and neglected.

Enabling the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to establish special property tax rates is critical to providing relief for our residents and business owners, addressing blight, and fueling revitalization efforts in our City. I want to thank my former colleagues on this committee for their attention to this bill and respectfully urge a **favorable** report for HB 1320.

Sincerely,

Nick J. Mosby  
President, Baltimore City Council