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HB0721

February 20, 2024

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

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

RE: House Bill HB 721 – Baltimore City – Tax Sales – Owner-Occupied Residential Property

POSITION: Letter of Information

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee, please find the below **letter of information** from the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) regarding House Bill (HB) 721.

HB 721 authorizes the Baltimore City's tax collector to withhold all owner-occupied residential property from a tax sale.

The BCA is committed to improving the tax sale process and appreciates the authority to address tax sale issues that commonly arise. This bill aligns with the spirit of comprehensive goals that we have set to save families and legacy homes, and protect individuals who are low income, senior, or disabled.

We believe that the City already has this authority, enacted in 2022 by HB1196. This year's HB 721 would slightly improve the existing authority by no longer requiring the City of Baltimore to establish objective criteria by which to remove owner-occupied properties from tax sale. We support making the City tax collection system more flexible and equitable for all residents.

The BCA appreciates your consideration of our letter of information regarding HB 721.