

from Beyond the Boundaries on Inclusionary Housing Policy

With much anticipation, the **Task Force Report on Inclusionary Housing policy ("At Home in Baltimore: A Plan for an Inclusive City of Neighborhoods")** was presented to the Baltimore City Council on July 10th. Michael Sarbanes, Chairman of the Task Force, highlighted the three overarching recommendations:

- 1) Establish More Resources** for Inclusionary Housing (including a Trust Fund; Streamlining City land acquisition; increased State support; and incentives)
- 2) Create a Framework for Inclusionary Development** (ensuring inclusionary housing where there is major public subsidy, significant rezoning, and without major subsidy or rezoning); and
- 3) Support Buyers, Owners, Landlords, and Renters to Access and Preserve Inclusionary Housing** (an array of strategies to help people purchase and maintain housing, strengthen neighborhoods, and enhance community opportunities).

The entire report is attached and available on the Beyond the Boundaries website (www.archbalt.org/beyondtheboundaries). (FYI, it's a very comprehensive, but long report---over 80 pages.) The report is also available at www.baltimorecitycouncil.com

City Council staff will prepare legislation based on the Task Force recommendations. At this time, the expectation is that three bills will be drafted by late September for the City Council to consider.

Council President Sheila Dixon thanked the Task Force for their excellent work in preparing the extensive recommendations. Indicating the council would need some time to review the detailed information, she announced that a public hearing is scheduled for October 4th at 5 p.m. at Baltimore City Hall.

Councilman Jack Young, a member of the Task Force, noted the urgency of acting on the recommendations, saying he's counting on his colleagues and that the Council "*should get right to work on this so the recommendations don't die.*" Betty Bland Thomas, the Community Organization representative on the Task Force, also mentioned the urgency to provide diverse housing for all citizens. She asked council members to "*not forget the poor.....or we have neglected our official responsibility. As elected officials, we must maintain and increase a diverse housing stock to serve all citizens.*"

There are **several specific things we can do now:**

* **Call or send a message to your City Council member.** Constituents can influence the action that a Council member will take. If enough people let our elected officials know we support inclusionary housing policies, they'll respond positively. You can access the contact information for your city council member at:

<http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/citycouncil/> and entering your address. (The City Council website is: www.baltimorecitycouncil.com If you go to this website, just click on "Find Your District."

* **Help lead the effort in your parish or community.** Beyond the Boundaries is looking for people that will share the news with others in their parish. We need Parish Leaders and a leader for each of the City Council Districts. If you have a few hours to promote this important legislation, call Harriett at 443/623-1355 or Brother Jerry at 443/722-7522 and let us know how you may be able to play a role in getting this historic policy enacted.

* **Talk with your neighbors,** co-workers, fellow parishioners and ask them to become involved (communicating with their council members).

* **Participate in the Public Hearing on October 4th.** A very strong showing will likely be a deciding factor in passage of this legislation. And, even better, would you invite another person--or two-- to attend with you?

**Mark your calendars: Public Hearing on the Inclusionary Housing Policy Report
October 4th, Wednesday, 5 p.m. , Baltimore City Hall**

Baltimore Sun on July 11, titled Pricing Workers Out? This article and several other articles related to housing concerns in the metropolitan Baltimore area are on the Beyond the Boundaries web page (go to www.archbalt.org/beyondtheboundaries and click on "Articles" at the bottom of the page).

We thank you for your dedication in working for inclusive housing policies that will provide better opportunities for all people. Your assistance in obtaining passage of this legislation is greatly needed. Could you find even a few moments to help with this initiative? We'd love to hear from you.

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