

Thanks in great part to all those citizens (including members of the Murphy Initiative and Beyond the Boundaries) who contacted Baltimore City Council Members on the morning of Dec. 4, a strong Inclusionary Housing Bill was introduced at that evening's Baltimore City Council meeting. It has been submitted to the Council's Land Use and Transportation Committee which has asked for evaluations of the bill from city agencies on or about Jan. 7, and from the Baltimore City Planning Commission on March 17.

(The bill is available at [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com); click on "Legislative Information Center"; click on "Legislative File Search" and enter Bill No. 06 0558. This page will also provide the latest info on upcoming hearings and the progress of the bill as it advances through the process)

There is still a big challenge since objections to this bill will surely be heard at hearings between late January and late March (The *Baltimore Sun* [Housing Proposal Faces Friction](#), Dec. 5, offers some of the opposing arguments...available at [www.archbalt.org/beyondtheboundaries](http://www.archbalt.org/beyondtheboundaries); click on "Articles" at the bottom).

The Inclusionary Housing Coalition (IHC), comprised of representatives of community organizations, unions, and faith groups (including members of Beyond the Boundaries) has been meeting with members of the City administration to hear any concerns they have about the bill, and has been meeting to develop broad grass roots support for a strong Inclusionary Housing bill. It will sponsor a training session to help advocates get comfortable with talking about the importance of inclusionary housing, and to develop council district teams that are ready on a moment's notice to advocate for a strong Inclusionary Housing bill during the legislative process (by attending and /or speaking at hearings, sending emails, meeting with Council Members, etc). The meeting will be from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
1410 Bush St , Baltimore

**Special Note: *Beyond the Boundaries* postcard campaign...** At the last meeting you received a form by which you could request postcards with a message to City Council members in each district supporting Inclusionary Housing legislation (also to be distributed by parishes after weekend Masses). Beyond the Boundaries is holding off on responding to requests for these postcards until after the IHC does further analysis on the bill over the next week, since this may affect the wording of the message on the postcard.

Thank you,  
Brother Jerry O'Leary, CFX  
(submitted, 05 Jan/07)