

To: Friends of the Murphy Initiative
From: Bro. Jerry O'Leary, CFX, Chair of the Murphy Initiative Steering Council
Date: February 19, 2007
Subject: Inclusionary Housing bill campaign 2007

Background on where the Inclusionary Housing legislation (City Bill #06 0558) is in the legislative process, and what is planned to ensure that a strong bill is passed this spring. An ACTION PLAN IS INCLUDED for those who live in Baltimore City. If you are a non-resident, please make the Action Plan and letter known to friends, co-workers, church members, etc., who are city residents

Legislative Process:

The Inclusionary Housing bill has been assigned to the **Land Use and Transportation Committee**

President of the City Council has referred it to:

- the Department of Housing and Community Development,
- the Department of Finance, and
- the Planning Commission.

They, in turn, are to make reports on it to the Land Use and Transportation Committee Committee.

The Planning Commission report, probably in mid March, will have the most weight. It will be important for supporters of a strong bill to:

- weigh in with the Planning Commission
- to attend their hearing on the bill.

The Land Use and Transportation Committee will:

- hold hearings as it considers agency recommendations
- take public testimony
- send it back to the City Council as a whole.

The Council:

- debates,
- amends the bill, if necessary
- takes an initial vote.

At a final meeting the Council takes a final vote on the bill.

Planning to ensure a strong bill is passed

Since just prior to the Dec. 4, when a strong Inclusionary Housing bill was introduced at the City Council (due in great part to advocacy by a broad coalition of groups, including many BtB members), representatives from Beyond the Boundaries have joined with representatives from:

- other faith groups,
- Citizens Planning and Housing Association (CPHA),
- unions, and community organizations,

to form the Inclusionary Housing Coalition (IHC). The IHC has been meeting to establish a coordinated effort to plan a campaign to:

- let people know of the benefits of Inclusionary Housing,
- develop support for it,
- ensure that the Inclusionary Housing bill remains strong as it passes through the legislative process and amendments are proposed.

ACTION PLAN:

By early March

- 1.) Mail the attached Planning Commission letter to the Chair, Peter Auchincloss and a copy of letter to your Council Member. **Be sure to fill in your district number and sign**. (to find your district on line go to www.baltimorecitycouncil.com, and click “find your District”, **or call** 410 396-5580.
- 2.) Please make the attached Letter available for people to sign
- 3.) **Each person should consider signing two copies,**
 - a. **one for the Chair of the Planning Commission,**
 - b. **the other as a CC to the individual’s Council Member**
- 4.) Assign someone to contact Bro. Jerry O’Leary to have the letters delivered to the Planning Commission and City Council Members.
- 5.) Attend the Planning Commission Hearing (sometime in mid-March; exact day will be announced)

We need a strong showing of inclusionary housing advocates to show how important this law is to our communities.

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