

Letter Campaign to support Inclusionary Housing in Baltimore City:

Consider writing a letter to the Sunpapers to support Inclusionary Housing legislation (City Bill #06 0558) and/or write a letter to city officials. Addresses to City officials may be found at: www.baltimorecitycouncil.com and click "find your District", or call 410 396-5580

More information (frequently asked questions) on housing in Baltimore and **City Bill #06 0558 can be found at: www.pfmjpi.org/housing.htm** including a letter that can be sent to Peter Auchincloss, Chair, Baltimore City Planning Commission. It is important for him to receive letters, but it is also important that you

- 1) include your Baltimore City District (see above)
- 2) be a City resident.

Other Letters: The Sun welcomes letters from readers. All letters become property of The Sun, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name and address, along with day and evening telephone numbers. Write us: Letters to the Editor, The Sun, P.O. Box 1377, Baltimore 21278-0001; e-mail us: letters@altsun.com; fax us: 410-332-6977.

The following letter was published in the Baltimore Sun on March 4, 2007:

From the Baltimore Sun Letters to the Editor
March 4, 2007

CITY IS IN NEED OF AFFORDABLE HOMES
by Helene F. Perry, a long time Beyond the Boundaries member.

The Sun's article "Housing decline hits area unevenly" (Feb. 25) celebrated the fact that the city has seen substantial gains in housing prices in many areas. This is indeed good news for revitalization efforts in the city. But reading between the lines, and noting the ZIP codes where some of the largest increases have occurred, I can't help but wonder just what impact this has on those neighborhoods.

And I wonder if the price increases are being driven by speculators investing in cheap, substandard housing.

Neighborhoods are not helped when deteriorating houses remain vacant while speculators wait for a rising tide to cash out.

There is a good dynamic at work in the city housing market, but we also need to increase and preserve the city's stock of decent housing that working families can afford.

Can children of longtime residents now afford to buy a house where they grew up as properties are rehabbed and sold at rising rates?

It is high time our City Council passed a strong inclusionary-zoning bill to offset speculation and gentrification and increase the supply of affordable housing available to city residents.