Baltimore City Housing Committee

**Notes**

March 6, 2023, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82998738467?pwd=Tm43T2tmbVNlNjVlWWtlamJUUzYrdz09)

**Present**: Irisha Burrell, Dr. Monica McCall, Glenda Curtis, Kristina Logan, Kane Levings, Kaitlin Krug, Patrick Miles, Amy Taubenfeld, Sharonda Huffman, Terri Bradford, Tim Wiens, Sarah Hochbaum, Andy Krauss, Councilwoman Odette Ramos

1. Welcome by Sharonda Huffman
   1. Review of minutes from January 10, 2023.
   2. There were no changes or additions to the minutes.
2. Equity Initiatives with Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development – Glenda Curtis, Equity Officer
   1. She is looking for ideas to help make her position meaningful to the IDD community. She would like to speak with individuals and advocates of inclusive housing.
   2. She would also like to find those pockets of people who are not necessarily connected and get them the information that they need. Perhaps visit them at large gathering areas like social services offices or the MVA.
3. Small Development Geared to DDA Community – Irisha Burrell
   1. Irisha shared her background with the committee.
   2. They have 3 homes (West Baltimore by Garrison Ave, Frederick Ave, and near Sarah’s Hope and the police station) and an apartment building in Harlem Park in the city right now. They are in the process of developing a duplex that will be 2 units. They are looking for additional properties.
      1. They started a furnished rooming house that is affordable to provide people with an option.
      2. One is a 4-bedroom home for a single mom with kids who has housing assistance.
      3. The last is an apartment building where the tenants tend to be younger. There is a 2-bedroom vacancy right now. They anticipate there will be a second vacancy later this year.
      4. Their organization wants landlords to be responsive to tenant needs regarding housing as well as other needs that they might have. For each home, Irisha lets tenants know about the services in their area.
   3. Irisha said she is willing to talk to other landlords and developers to share ideas. Glenda Curtis asked to be included in any meetings scheduled.
   4. Irisha Burrell’s contact information: Irisha.burrell@gmail.com and 443-744-5368
4. Updates on DDA Rent Subsidy and Technology– Stephanie Jones
   1. March 10 at 12:00 pm there will be a refresher training to go over the DDA rent subsidy. MIH provides training for the CLCs on the rent subsidy.
5. DDA Rent Subsidy Budget Hearings
   1. MIH was present at these hearings. They used the time to educate the new legislators on the goal of MIH.
   2. In addition to the $250,000 grant in the proposed FY24 DDA budget, MIH funding comes from Medicaid Money Follows the Person, and Medicaid Waiver LTSS billing for Housing Support Services.
   3. MIH advocated for additional funding of 100 new placements in the second year of the DDA Rental Subsidy Program. MIH will continue to advocate for the growth of this program with a target of getting up to 500 rental subsidies over the next several years.
   4. After the legislative sessions are over, Carol Beatty will try to get the players together to talk about the MIH Housing Partnership proposal.
6. Legislation related to Housing in Baltimore
   1. Councilwoman Odette Ramos - Inclusionary Housing & Land Banks
      1. For any development already getting a subsidy, 10% of the units need to be reserved for 60% or less AMI. If there’s an additional subsidy, they need to add an additional 5% of units at 50% or less AMI. Also in there is a 15% tax credit for inclusionary housing.
      2. She would like to lower the threshold to a $750,000 purchase price for recordation fees that would go into the housing trust fund.
      3. She would like to introduce the law of first refusal so that tenants have the first right to buy their home when a property is sold.
      4. Once liens are larger than the value of a vacant property, the city can immediately foreclose on them and then dispose of them using the Land Bank. Dangerous properties will be knocked down, but others can be rehabbed through consultation with the community. The Land Bank will be a streamlined quasi government agency that will focus only on this.
      5. She is considering a new bill for group homes where houses must be inspected regularly, not allowed in vacant buildings, and the house has to be up to current local building standards. She would like to share the fact sheet of the bill with the committee and get the committee’s support. Councilwoman Ramos will send it to Sharonda and she will send to committee.
         1. Note: Please don’t lump all group homes together. People with IDD receive services with regulatory oversight. Children services are regulated twice as much as others.
   2. Martin French, Baltimore City Planning Department – Abundant Housing was not present. Sharonda advised the following:
      1. The Department of Planning is holding a virtual listening session on the council's [Abundant Housing Act](https://baltimore.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5862689&GUID=DF61A5BA-4BFD-4FBA-8FF3-231A390564A4&Options=&Search=), introduced by Councilman Ryan Dorsey (D-3) on Thursday, March 9, 2023 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM via [Webex](https://mailchi.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f9796c9fa834af259d2eba1ff&id=1eefde2ccd&e=215b1c97e6)
7. MIH Staff Changes
   1. Tierra Medley is the new MIH Community Living Coordinator providing housing support services. We hope to add a fourth CLC soon.
   2. Lauren Silverstone has been promoted to Director of Housing Support Services.
8. Open Forum
   1. No items were brought up.
   2. Next Meeting - May 1, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

**Additional Information**

Councilwoman [Odette Ramos Goals for 2023](https://www.odetteramos.com/updates/goals-for-2023)

* Sponsor and pass legislation to address vacant and abandoned properties. We laid an awesome foundation in 2022 by passing several pieces of legislation and advocating for the use of and the City’s capacity to conduct In Rem foreclosures. However, more must be done, including raising the funds, creating a Land Bank to efficiently dispose of properties after acquisition through In Rem system, expanding In Rem, and advocating strongly for this to be our city’s top priority.
* Work with colleagues to pass the legislation we’ve been working on the past two years, including Inclusionary Housing, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase, and more. [Inclusionary Housing Bill 22-0195](https://baltimore.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5448163&GUID=3D64C08C-F5D9-4FEA-91C7-4F912C1270B5&Options=ID|Text|&Search=inclusionary)
* Advocate through our platform for housing for all, and public safety.

[Article](https://ggwash.org/view/87994/two-bills-aim-to-tackle-baltimores-housing-shortage) regarding Abundant Housing and Inclusionary Housing Bills