

## **News Release**

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## **Statement from Acting Housing Commissioner Alice Kennedy**

**Baltimore, MD** – Last week, the City of Baltimore announced that Alice Kennedy will serve as Acting Housing Commissioner and lead the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development. Acting Commissioner Kennedy today issued the following statement:

*"I am honored to have been asked to serve as Acting Housing Commissioner for the City of Baltimore. It is my privilege to lead the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) in this capacity.* 

"I want our partners and the public to know that we will continue to build on the achievements of this administration and the successes of the agency. Our work to create affordable housing and homeownership opportunities remains a critical priority. We will continue to bring development opportunities to the marketplace that leverage greater investment and create vibrant communities. We will maintain resources to help homeowners make critical repairs to stabilize their homes, reduce energy costs and reduce lead paint hazards. We'll also keep working to enhance our customer service with respect to housing inspections and code enforcement.

"I believe we have before us a host of new opportunities. I intend to work with our partners and communities to embrace these opportunities and achieve even greater successes. As an agency leader, I want to bring a heightened emphasis to our support for legacy homeowners, increasing housing security, and focusing on the critical intersection of health and housing. These areas are central to a successful equity strategy, and it is an approach that will increase housing stability, reduce displacement, ignite revitalization, and prevent blight.

"As we continue to respond to the current pandemic, most immediately, we will bring more resources to bear to support those that have been financially impacted by COVID-19. Our concern for residents who may be facing evictions remains a top priority, and we are expeditiously working with City agencies to implement a comprehensive program to prevent evictions and homelessness.

"I love Baltimore. I am committed to the service of our city. I want to assure you that the dedicated employees at DHCD remain steadfast in their commitment to the work. Our work is transformative, and I believe in getting the job done with transparency, inclusion, and equity. I know our agency will earn your continued trust and support as we face this current transition in leadership. We look forward to continuing to serve the City of Baltimore."