January 21, 2014

Dear Vacants to Value Homeownership Program Applicant,

Effective immediately, the Vacants to Value Homeownership Program standard for eligibility is that the house was subject to a Vacant Building Notice for a year or more prior to its rehabilitation for sale to a home buyer. Previously the program accepted evidence and documentation that the property had been vacant for a year or more regardless of whether a Vacant Building Notice had been issued. This new eligibility standard will ensure that limited funding for the Vacants to Value $10,000 homeownership incentives goes to properties and Vacants to Value areas most in need of redevelopment assistance.

You will soon be able to access information online about whether a Vacant Building Notice has been issued for a particular property, and if so, when it was issued. In the meantime, you can ask the HCD Office of Homeownership to conduct a research and eligibility check for you by contacting Arthur Gray at 410-396-3126 or by email at Arthur.Gray@baltimorecity.gov.

If your prospective new home is eligible according to the Vacant Building Notice standard, then your application will be accepted for processing. All other rules and regulations of the program still apply.

If your prospective new home is not eligible, we encourage you to consider and apply for other homeownership incentive programs, some recently enhanced. Please refer to the attached B-HiP (Baltimore Homeownership Incentive Program) flyer to learn more about the City’s homeownership incentive programs and consult your housing counseling agency and www.livebaltimore.com for information about federal, state, and community-
based incentives. You may also look online at www.vacants2value.org to see properties for sale that have been pre-approved for the Vacants to Value $10,000 homeownership program.

Thank you for your interest in buying a home in Baltimore City. Baltimore City offers the widest array of homeownership incentive programs in the region: Vacants to Value, Buying Into Baltimore, City Employee, CDBG, and Live Near Your Work... and these programs can be used in combination with each other when you are eligible for more than one.

The Office of Homeownership is located at 417 East Fayette Street, 11th floor and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is 410-396-3124. Please feel free to visit or contact the office if you need further information. We look forward to helping you become a homeowner in the city of Baltimore.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Strong
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Green, Healthy and Sustainable Homes
Department of Housing and Community development
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