

TransForm Baltimore Zoning HIA

Policy Maker Track
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by:

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TransForm Baltimore HIA

- Zoning rewrite timeline

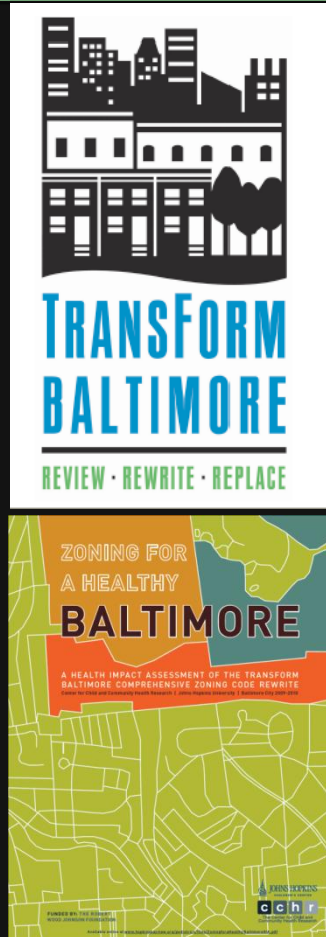
- Last updated in 1971
- Mandated by the Comprehensive Plan
- Began in late 2007
- First draft released May 2010

- Goals for the rewrite:

- Simplify and standardize
- Support investment
- Preserve unique character
- Reflect built environment
- Flexibility
- Prepare for future

- Website:

www.rewritebaltimore.org



- HIA Goal

Inform and influence the code to promote health and mitigate unanticipated negative health consequences

- Timeline:

- Began in 2009
- Report released September 2010
- Follow-up continues

- Website

www.hopkinsbayview.org/p/ediatrics/zoning

Information HIA Added

- Underscored potential influence on health
- Impacts to high- and low-poverty areas
- Role of mixed use/walkability in different neighborhoods
- Detailed comparison of land use between current and proposed code
 - Alcohol
 - Food environment
 - Pedestrian environment
- Recommended alternatives

Interaction with decision makers

- Built from previous efforts
- Helped strengthen links between agencies
- Participation on Zoning Advisory Board
- Interviews with key decision makers
- Continued meeting observation
- Multiple meetings with Department of Planning
- Presentation of HIA Report to ZAC
- Extensive follow-up to further sculpt recommendations

Outcomes

- Health solidly on zoning agenda
- Media attention
- Health Department representation
- Established connection between zoning and health
- Changes to zoning language
 - Community gardens, urban agriculture
 - Definition of alcohol outlets
 - Wider application of pedestrian standards
 - New use categories and definitions (fast food)
 - Standards for new alcohol outlets
- Policy development around existing alcohol outlets
- Continued working relationship

Reflections

- Persistence and flexibility
- Understanding power dynamics, political climate
- Critical function of an internal champion
- Developing zoning literacy
- Showing up to meetings
- Difficulty of health disparities discussions
- Resources
- Data/research translation
- Generating interest in zoning

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