

BDC NAMES BALTIMORE OPPORTUNITY ZONES COORDINATOR

BALTIMORE (October 15, 2018) – The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has named Benjamin Seigel as Baltimore Opportunity Zones Coordinator (BOZ Coordinator). He will be responsible for positioning the City to take full advantage of the new incentives to increase investment in Baltimore’s Opportunity Zones.

“The Opportunity Zones represent a unique opportunity to accelerate the new era of neighborhood investment that we are working to create,” said Mayor Catherine E. Pugh. “We’re fully committed to ensuring the effective collaboration with city and state agencies so that we’re in the strongest position to make the most of the potential this initiative represents. We welcome Mr. Seigel, who will be based out of BDC, to highlight the substantial investment opportunities available throughout our City.”

The BOZ Coordinator position is funded by a grant from the Abell Foundation. Seigel will primarily serve in an “information clearinghouse” role with the following key responsibilities:

- Provide information about and promote projects in Baltimore’s Opportunity Zones
- Identify and inventory Opportunity Fund investors, as well as other potential investments and leveraged funds
- Help match projects with investors and track investments
- Draft a comprehensive plan for the Baltimore City Opportunity Zones and an Investment Prospectus

“Baltimore City is well positioned to leverage resources presented by the Opportunity Zones,” said Robert C. Embry, Jr., President of the Abell Foundation. “Mr. Seigel brings a unique skill set that positions him to lead this effort to bring economic investment and new jobs to Baltimore.”

Previously, Seigel joined Johns Hopkins University as the inaugural executive director of the 21st Century Cities Initiative, an applied research and partnership building program that brings together interdisciplinary researchers with city partners to strengthen policies focused on improving distressed communities. Prior to Hopkins, he served in the Obama administration as a senior advisor in the office of Labor Secretary Tom Perez and as the director of the Labor Department’s Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Seigel also served as the initial team lead for the Obama Administration’s Baltimore Federal Task Force, formed in May 2015, where he guided senior-level staff across more than a dozen agencies and the White House, to bring enhanced federal and technical assistance to Baltimore.

“Ben Seigel is experienced in cross sector efforts to support inclusive economic growth in Baltimore through positions and roles in the federal government, university, and nonprofit arenas,” said William H. Cole, president and CEO of BDC. “We are excited to have him on board and grateful to Abell for their grant to make this possible.”

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