

*Lambda Alpha Baltimore*

**Luncheon Meeting Agenda**

**March 18, 2015**

12:00 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. LAI Land Economics Weekend (LEW) – Washington, D.C. April 2015, based at Hotel Monaco
3. **2015 Programs – Upcoming Speakers**
  - a. **Wednesday April 15** –Presentation by **Stuart Kaplow, “Green Attorney”**, on where the real estate industry opportunities are in the 113 green building laws in Maryland, located at 100 E. Pratt Training room
  - b. **Wednesday May 20** – Market Update by **Bill Roohan & Bo Cashman, CBRE**, location TDB
4. **Attendee Introductions**

## 5. **Speaker Introduction –**

**Jason Hessler,**

**Assistant Commissioner of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development**

While Baltimore City has long been beset by an oversupply of abandoned housing units, that is a problem which presents a significant opportunity. The Vacants to Value Initiative seeks to leverage that opportunity. Cleaning up and redeveloping these properties can help raise property values, create community amenities, increase local tax revenue, and attract new residents and businesses.

**In October 2001, Jason joined the Code Enforcement Legal Section of the Department of Housing and Community Development** as a staff attorney. Jason's tenacity toward resolving nuisances, his dedication to the communities he serves and his ability to apply previously unused resources made him stand out among his peers. His talents were quickly put to use in developing business systems to modernize the code enforcement division.

**In 2007, Jason was tapped to serve as Acting Director of the Legal Section and in 2009 was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Litigation** where he manages a staff of thirty attorneys, paralegals and investigators. As Assistant Commissioner, Jason led the dismantling and redevelopment of the City's Environmental Crimes Unit. By evaluating the existing structure and making strategic changes, the new unit, in the first year, was able to: return three police officers from special duty to regular neighborhood patrol; double the number of investigations completed; reduce response time from six days to two; increase criminal prosecutions by 266%; issue over one million dollars in fines; and reduce the cost of the unit by over 50%, a \$450,000 savings.

Jason has a J.D. from the University Of Baltimore School Of Law and a B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

## 6. Adjournment.