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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GREATER BALTIMORE BOARD OF REALTORS®
COLLABORATES WITH BALTIMORE CITY OFFICIALS
AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO ADDRESS
RANSOMWARE IMPACT ON REAL ESTATE**

Temporary manual process established to complete real estate settlements.

BALTIMORE (May 22, 2019) – The Greater Baltimore Board of REALTORS® (GBBR) has been working closely with Baltimore City Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young's office, Baltimore City Council President Brandon Scott, and Bill O'Connell, president of the Maryland Land Title Association, as well as the Baltimore City departments of law and finance, in designing a manual work around to access real estate data that was locked down due to the May 7, 2019 ransomware attack on city technology systems. The temporary solution was announced after nearly two weeks of technology outage had halted the completion of real estate transactions within the city.

“This manual process is allowing a significant number of loan settlements in the backlog to be closed. However, there are still some lingering issues that prevent all transactions from being finalized,” said Alan R. Ingraham, GBBR's Chief Executive Officer, about the work around that was established. “Our collaborative group continues to address each and every one of these issues and strives to achieve a permanent framework as quickly as possible. The professionalism and patience of everyone working on and within the system is what is allowing us to effectively utilize the alternative method currently in place.”

As one of the largest trade associations in the metropolitan area, GBBR's membership is largely comprised of REALTORS® who hold active real estate licenses and assist in executing the transfer of real property on a daily basis in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and the surrounding areas. GBBR has continuously relayed information to its REALTOR® agents and affiliated members so that they could in turn share updates with clients who were experiencing delays on pending transactions.

GBBR's most recent post to their membership states “Microsoft technicians are working around the clock to get the data software system back up and fully functional so that all transactions can be handled efficiently and accurately for the longer term. At this time it is estimated that goal can be accomplished within five to seven business days. However, such complete system restorations rarely go without some glitches, which may delay that date to some degree. We will continue to keep all of our members and the public they serve apprised and updated as soon as possible.”

For more details concerning the procedures of the manual workaround to access city data, visit <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDBALT/bulletins/2458b25>

About the Greater Baltimore Board of REALTORS®

Established in 1858 as the nation's first real estate board, the Greater Baltimore Board of REALTORS® (GBBR) has worked to promote the highest ethical standards and professional practices industry wide for more than 160 years. GBBR provides real estate license training, continuing education, mediation and serves as an advocate for homeownership in the community. In the legislative and regulatory arenas, GBBR strives to assure that laws and policies benefit the transaction of real estate and preserve property owners' rights. For more information, visit www.GBBR.org.

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