



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 22-0223

Downtown Management District and Downtown Management Authority

Sponsor: *Councilmember Costello*

Introduced: *April 25, 2022*

Purpose:

For the purpose of renewing and continuing the Downtown Management District and Downtown Management Authority, subject to certain conditions, for an additional 5 years; generally relating to the activities and authority of the Downtown Management District and Downtown Management Authority; and providing for a special effective date.

Effective: The date of enacted.

Agency Reports

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| City Solicitor | |
| Department of Finance | |
| Baltimore Development Corporation | Favorable |
| Planning Commission | Favorable/Defers to BDC |
| Department of Transportation | |
| Department of Housing and Community Development | Favorable |
| Department of Public Works | |
| Board of Estimates | |

Analysis

Current Law

Baltimore City Code Article 14, Subtitle 1 and Subtitle 6-16 (4-year reviews).

(a) Public hearings.

No later than 4 years after the enactment of this subtitle and every 4 years thereafter, the Mayor and City Council shall hold 1 or more public hearings to evaluate the activities and undertakings of the Authority and the District.

(b) Mayor and Council to decide.

At the conclusion of the hearings, the Mayor and City Council shall determine whether the District is to continue for another 4 years.

(c) Process to be repeated.

This process shall be repeated periodically to satisfy the requirements of the Enabling Legislation.

Background

The Downtown Management Authority and Downtown Improvement District were created via enabling legislation of the State of Maryland, City of Baltimore and a referendum of the area's residents. The District was created to address public safety, clean-up, maintenance, streetscape improvements, beautification, and marketing activities and programs. Property owners in the district pay a special tax.

The Mayor and City Council authorized the District and the Authority to continue through June 30, 2022 via a series of enactments:

- Resolution 96-005
- Resolution 07-022
- Ordinance 12-001, and
- Resolution 17-002

The Downtown Improvement District (DID) is a 106 square block area spanning a one-mile radius from the center point of Pratt Street and Light Street. The boundaries are generally State Center on the north, Lee Street on the south, University of Maryland to the West and Interstate 83 on the East (*see attachment*). There is a mixture of commercial and residential uses in the area. Neighborhoods in the area include all or portions of Mount Vernon, Inner Harbor, Charles Center, and Bromo Arts.

DID is run by the Downtown Management Authority, comprised of members of the community and local businesses. Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) assists DMA with overseeing certain projects. DMA/ DPOB promote and market the district, provide supplemental security and maintenance services, provide amenities in public areas, provide park and recreational programs and functions, and other services and functions as requested by the Authority and approved by an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council.

In addition to providing supplemental sanitation and safety services, DID also supports community events, recreational activities and the development of amenities such as green spaces, and promotes the district as a good place to live, work and play. A full-time president and Chief Executive Officer manage staff, programs and the budget. A community-based Board of Directors works with the president and governs the organization, monitoring its programs and finances. The City of Baltimore's Board of Estimates reviews the DID's annual financial plan. The City Council reviews the DID's performance every four years and votes on whether or not to reauthorize it for another four years.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Bill 22-0223 Baltimore City Code

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