



MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE,
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO,
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, *Executive Secretary*

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: December 3, 2013

Re: **City Council Bill 13-0290 – City Streets – Closing of Air Rights Over a Portion of Linden Avenue (Ward 11, Section 9, Block 501)**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 13-0290, which was introduced for the purpose of condemning and closing air rights over a portion of Linden Avenue, extending 56.62 feet south of the intersection formed by the west side of Linden Avenue and the southeast side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, as shown on Plat 310-A-22 in the Office of the Department of General Services; and providing for a special effective date.

The Mayor and City Council (MCC) recently enacted two ordinances related to the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Midtown Campus redevelopment plan: (i) Ordinance 13-0146 authorized the sale of the formerly MCC-owned property known as 890 Linden Avenue to UMMC; and (ii) Ordinance 13-0147 re-zoned portions of the redevelopment site to the B-5-1 Zoning District in order to accommodate a hospital as a permitted use, which was necessary for the project. The UMMC Midtown redevelopment plan is intended to create a state-of-the-art ambulatory care center at the location formerly known as Maryland General Hospital (now re-christened the UMMC Midtown Campus). The instant bill, if enacted, would condemn and close air rights over Linden Avenue to allow UMMC Midtown to cantilever a pedestrian walkway over Linden Avenue to connect to the improved buildings on either side of Linden. It is the understanding of HCD that the height of the lowest portion of the to-be-constructed walkway will be high enough to accommodate unimpeded vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and will allow for the creation of a right turn lane from Linden Avenue on to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 13-0290.

PTG:nb

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Kaliopa Parthemous, *Deputy Chief, Economic Development*



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