

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR
Director

MEMO

January 22, 2010

TO: The Honorable President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
and Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

FROM: Ms. Kathleen G. Kotarba, Executive Director

RE: Bill No. 09-0412 Zoning-Cell Towers

This legislation will require that conditional use applications for antenna towers, microwave relay towers, and similar installations for communications transmission or receiving be referred to the Historical and Architectural Preservation Division, Department of Planning, for certain determinations; and specifying certain required findings and conditions of approval for these uses. CHAP respectfully submits a **favorable** report, endorsing this legislation.

This legislation will bring beneficial historic preservation procedures to the BMZA conditional use review process, insuring that communications installations have no adverse affect upon Baltimore's landmarks and 76 historic districts. The staff of the Planning Department's Historical and Architectural Preservation Division will review conditional use applications at an early stage in the process to determine whether affected properties are within Baltimore City or National Register Historic Districts, or included in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, or listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or the Baltimore City Landmark List.

If a property falls into one of these categories, the Division staff will determine whether the installation will have an adverse affect, and whether and how that adverse affect can be adequately mitigated. The Division staff is uniquely qualified to provide this service, as it is consistent with current historic preservation review responsibilities.

This legislation will help to protect Baltimore's historic character for the quality of life and economic benefit of our citizenry. Citizens in Baltimore's numerous historic district communities will appreciate the City's assistance in preserving their neighborhoods. Preserved landmarks and historic districts bring tourists to our city, as well. Guiding the appropriate installation of communications installations will enhance the appearance of Baltimore and, thereby, foster the City's appeal to new residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council

