



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2020
TO: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO 
POSITION: Support
SUBJECT: City Council Bill 20-0553 – Urban Renewal - Washington Village – Amendment_

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill 20-0553 introduced by the City Council President at the request of The Administration.

PURPOSE

For the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Washington Village to revise exhibits to the plan reflecting the addition of a new disposition lot, and to change the land use of the library lot.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Enoch Pratt Free Library has been exploring ways to enhance its facilities, including the Pigtown/Washington Village branch located at 856 Washington Boulevard. The Pratt Library would like to pursue a public-private partnership in an effort to address the deficiencies at the current facility and improve its capacity to meet the needs of the community in a fiscally responsible manner. The Pratt Library, with the assistance of the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), seeks to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the property. The intent of the RFP is to promote the re-use of the parcel in a fashion that will achieve the City's objectives, including a new and larger library, job creation, and tax generation adaptive re-use of properties. Before an RFP can be issued, an amendment to the Washington Village Urban Renewal Plan (URP) must be passed in order to authorize the disposition of the property and change the land use. Authorizing the site as a disposition lot will allow for the sale of land, and the change in land use for the site to allow for a mixed-use development which includes a larger library space.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts to BDC.

AGENCY POSITION

BDC **Supports** the Washington Village URP Amendment which allows for the redevelopment of the Pigtown branch of Enoch Pratt Free Library, and respectfully request that a favorable consideration be given to City Council Bill 20-0553.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Clark at 410-837-9305 or kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com.

cc: Nicholas Blendy

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