FROM	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, Director	CITY of
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building	BALTIMORE **MEMO**
	SUBJECT	**CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0022**	

DATE: June 5, 2008

TO

The Honorable President and Members
  of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0022 introduced by Councilman Curran.

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Urban Renewal Plan for the Hamilton Business Area to specify uses to be allowed, not allowed, regulated, conditioned, or otherwise limited in a certain land use area, clarify certain language, and conform certain references; waive certain content and procedural requirements; make the provisions of the Ordinance severable; and provide for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances.

Ordinance 79-1207 established the Urban Renewal Plan for the Hamilton Business Area and was last amended by Ordinance 95-564. The Urban Renewal area includes both sides of Harford Road, from Gibbons Street to Evergreen Avenue, and both sides of Hamilton Avenue, roughly from Twin Oak to Hampnett Avenue. The purpose of the Urban Renewal Plan is to promote and preserve an active retail corridor that serves the surrounding community. City Council Bill 08-0022, if approved, would modify the allowable uses under the B-2-2 Zoning to prohibit religious institutions, and would clarify the definition of a non-conforming use. In reviewing this legislation, the Planning Commission amended the Bill to remove the prohibition against religious institutions in the Community Business areas and replaced the prohibition with the following: "Street-facing ground floor uses must be primarily retail or service establishments that deal directly with consumers, rely heavily on walk-in business and have regular daily hours."

Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 08-0022 as proposed to be amended by the Planning Commission.

DAVID E. SCOTT
DIRECTOR

F/A

DES/MMC:pat

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