



BALTIMORE HOUSING

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: January 22, 2015

Re: **City Council Bill 14-0458 – Release of an Easement – 414 Light Street**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 14-0458, for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to release an easement pertaining to certain property known as 414 Light Street, the easement being no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

This bill, if enacted, would support the development of a mixed use project by removing an easement that was retained when the City owned property was sold in 1979. The property known as 414 Light Street is bounded by East Conway Street, Light Street, South Charles Street, and the former East Barre Street and was the site of the former McCormick & Company spice plant. The City reserved the easement when they sold the property for future construction of a retaining wall along the Northern edge of the property, which was never built and is no longer needed. Removing the easement will allow the developer to fully utilize the site for development of apartment units, ground floor retail and a parking facility.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 14-0458.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Colin Tarbert, *Deputy Mayor*

