

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

FROM: M. J. Brodie, President *MJBrodie*

DATE: February 24, 2009

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 08-0163
Live Entertainment – Licensing and Regulation – Hospitality Services –
Promotion and Coordination

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) cannot take a position on City Council Bill number 08-0163, which proposes to establish a Board of Licenses for Live Entertainment as well as create an Office of Hospitality Services. As presently written, it is not possible for the BDC to properly gauge what the impact of the proposed bill would have on the regulated businesses or the community.

In order for BDC to support legislation such as this, additional research must be done in order to identify the true ramifications of the law on those businesses offering live entertainment. As written, the law would generate additional fees to be paid by businesses as well as establish a new office of City government, but does not clearly identify what benefits the regulated entities would receive in return. Additionally, it would be prudent to study the fiscal impact on the live entertainment industry in the City and determine how much of the business would be lost to surrounding jurisdictions.

The BDC is in agreement with the recommendations outlined in the Planning Department's report and would further reiterate that there is no clear evidence of how this bill would benefit those neighborhoods that are currently being negatively impacted by live entertainment venues.

cc: Andrew Frank
Angela Gibson

sandra.gladden/ccbill09/08-0163

