




MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: M. J. Brodie, President 

DATE: December 22, 2010

SUBJECT: City Council Bill 10-0624
Planned Unit Development – Amendment 1 – Greenmount West – Arts and
Entertainment District

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill # 10-0624, entitled, Planned Unit Development-Amendment 1- Greenmount West- Arts and Entertainment District. This Bill would add the property known as 1500 Barclay Street (aka Lebow Building) to the Office Residential Planned Unit Development area, modify the uses permitted and allow for Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals approval of variances for off-street parking requirement.

The former Lebow clothing manufacturing building at 1500 Barclay Street has been vacant and under-maintained for a long period of time, despite repeated attempts by the City and community to have the property maintained and reoccupied. Plans now put forward by Popham Properties, LLC, the contract purchaser of the property, for a mixed use redevelopment, including a public school specializing in architectural and design curriculum, would transform a seriously blighting condition into a unique neighborhood and city-wide asset. It will strongly support and enhance other redevelopment projects completed or underway in the immediate area, such as the City Arts affordable artists housing, Telesis housing redevelopment, Peoples Homesteading projects and the very successful Montessori School, as well as recent private investments in residential rehabilitation in surrounding blocks.

For the above reasons, BDC expresses strong support for City Council Bill # 10-0624 and respectfully recommends your favorable action on this Bill.

cc: Kaliopé Parthemos
Angela Gibson

sandra.blake/ccbill10-10-0624

