

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR
Director

MEMO

October 7, 2010

TO: The Honorable President Bernard Jack Young
And Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

FROM: Ms. Kathleen G. Kotarba, Executive Director

RE: Bill No. 10-0586 Sharp Leadenhall Historic District

This legislation will designate the area located within certain boundaries as the Sharp Leadenhall Historic District, and provide for a review process by the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) for plans affecting property within the historic district. The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation supports this legislation and requests that the designation process be completed as soon as possible.

Both CHAP and the Planning Commission have approved the designation and confirmed that the area meets the City's required criteria. The historic district designation will support the preservation and development of the community, and provide an appropriate process to review plans affecting the historic structures within the district.

Sharp Leadenhall is significant as a district associated with people and events important to Baltimore's history. Sharp Leadenhall is associated with 200 years of African American and immigrant history in South Baltimore. By the last decade of the 18th century, the African American neighborhood centered on Sharp Street Methodist Church and the Sharp Street African American School. This community was home to some of America's most important African American intellectuals including Daniel Coker, William Watkins, William Douglass, Hezekiah Grice, Dr. Lewis Wells, and Francis Helen Watkins Harper. Historic district designation will highlight and honor this rich legacy.

Your favorable support is requested. Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

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