


MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: M. J. Brodie, President 

DATE: May 6, 2009

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 08-0163  
Live Entertainment and Dancing – Zoning – Conditional Uses

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The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) supports the amended version (Draft IV) of City Council Bill number 08-0163, which proposes to add conditional uses to the zoning code in order to allow for live entertainment and dancing in certain zoning districts. By requiring a conditional use for a restaurant or tavern to provide live entertainment, the Zoning Board will now have the ability to better gauge the impact such uses will have in affected neighborhoods.

Baltimore City has a long and vibrant history with live entertainment. There are many venues where one can go to enjoy a seemingly unlimited array of live entertainment options. While this industry is a valued one and needs to be protected, this version of the bill should provide some certainty for the operators of live entertainment venues. The amended bill explicitly outlines the criteria that will be reviewed by the Zoning Board in order to make a decision on a conditional use permit. Having these guidelines should help interested parties to properly prepare their submissions and plan accordingly for their businesses. Additionally, by requiring the Zoning Board to report monthly to the City Council on impacted properties and hearing schedules, the process may become more transparent for those citizens who feel that their neighborhoods are being negatively impacted.

cc: Andrew Frank  
Angela Gibson

sandra.gladden/ccbill09/08-0163

