


MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: M. J. Brodie, President 

DATE: May 3, 2011

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 11-0275R
Informational Hearing – The Preservation of Read’s Drug Store and the
Superblock Development

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 11-0275R, a Resolution for the purpose of requesting BDC and its partners in the Superblock project to brief the Council on their efforts to acknowledge the first Civil Rights sit-in at the Read’s Drug Store on Lexington and Howard Streets; requesting the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) and the Department of Planning’s Urban Design and Architectural Review Panel (UDARP) to update the Council on their involvement in the Superblock and specifically the Read’s building; and inviting advocacy organizations to educate the Council on the importance of this Baltimore landmark.

BDC has reviewed and supports the Resolution and is respectfully requesting that the Resolution referred to as Bill No. 11-0275R is given favorable consideration by the City Council. The proposed Resolution will provide a welcomed opportunity for BDC and Lexington Square Partners, LLC (LSP) -- the selected developers for the block bounded by Fayette Street, Howard Street, Lexington Street and Park Avenue to present this important Westside Initiative project to the City Council. The Lexington Square project represents an opportunity for economic development and empowerment for the downtown community and the City of Baltimore. The project will serve as a catalyst to eliminate the blight created by long project delays; provide job opportunities, and increased pedestrian traffic with vibrant streetscapes. LSP, BDC and the Administration have worked diligently to provide compromise regarding historic preservation and will continue to work closely with community leaders and stakeholders to develop a commemoration marking the Baltimore Civil Rights Movement. The mutual interest of the entire community must be served by this project including existing business and property owners, residents, stakeholders and institution -- all which benefit the City of Baltimore.

cc: Kaliope Parthemos
Angela Gibson

