



**BALTIMORE
HOUSING**

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: September 22, 2008

Re: **City Council Bill 08-0022 Urban Renewal - Hamilton Business Area -
Amendment _**

The Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0022, which was introduced for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for the Hamilton Business Area to specify uses to be allowed, not allowed, regulated, conditioned, or otherwise limited in a certain land use area, clarifying certain language, and conforming certain references; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

This legislation would amend the existing Urban Renewal Plan for the Hamilton Business Area, which encompasses approximately the 2900 – 3100 blocks of Hamilton Avenue and the 5400 – 5500 blocks of Harford Road. City Council Bill 08-0022, as introduced, would have prohibited specific land uses in order to promote a more active customer oriented retail environment. The uses specifically barred include religious institutions, bail bondsmen, liquor stores, taverns and pawnshops along the retail corridor. The Planning Commission determined that a specific prohibition on religious institutions would violate Federal law and therefore it must be removed from the bill. The remaining prohibitions are legally permissible and can remain in the proposed legislation.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has no objection the adoption of City Council Bill 08-0022 as proposed to be amended by the Planning Commission.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Demaune Millard

