

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, Acting Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0088</b>		

DATE: April 22, 2008

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle  
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0088 introduced by Council President Rawlings Blake on behalf of the Administration (Department of Housing and Community Development).

The purpose of the Bill is to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain property located at 712 Cathedral Street (Block 0523, Lot 003) and no longer needed for public use.

The Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) was created in 1979 as part of the Baltimore School System by the Baltimore City School Board. BSA is a four year high school program that prepares its students for entry into colleges, art schools, and professional performance companies. The School began its program by renovating and occupying the former Alcazar Hotel at 712 Cathedral Street. Ordinance 00-81 granted authority for the Mayor and City Council to acquire the adjacent brownstone building at 704 Cathedral Street. BSA wanted to raise funds and renovate the structure, thus allowing for the expansion of their physical plant and arts programming. The two properties were consolidated into one lot in 2005.

BSA has an ambitious \$29 million plan to renovate both buildings, add new dance studios to the rear of 704 Cathedral Street, and eventually interconnect the structures. City Council Bill 08-0088, if approved, would authorize the City to sell this consolidated lot and structures. The Department of Public Works has no utility or other interests that would be affected by the proposed sale, and therefore, supports the passage of City Council Bill 08-0088.

  
 DAVID E. SCOTT  
 ACTING DIRECTOR

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