


FROM	NAME & TITLE	DOUGLAS B. McCOACH III, DIRECTOR <i>DBM</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0054/MIDTOWN COMMUNITY BENEFITS DISTRICT AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY-RENEWAL THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012		

TO

DATE:

April 21, 2008

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of April 17, 2008 the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0054, which is the requested legislation authorizes a renewal of the Midtown Community Benefits District. In 1995, this Benefits District was established. The overarching goal of a benefits district is to collect funds through an additional property tax surcharge in order to provide services above and beyond normal City services. In the case of Midtown, they cover approximately 175 blocks in the communities north of downtown.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #08-0054 and adopted the following resolution, eight members being present (eight in favor).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #08-0054 be passed by the City Council.

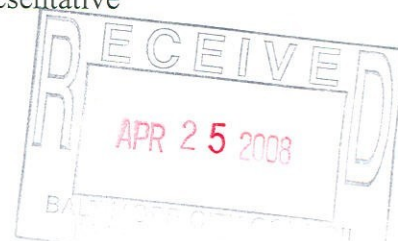
If you have questions, please contact Mr. Gary W. Cole, Deputy Director at 410-396-8337.

DBM/GWC/ttl

Attachments

cc:

Mr. Andy Frank, Deputy Mayor
Mr. Demuane Millard, Mayor's Office
Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
The Honorable "Rikki" Spector, City Council Commission Representative
Mr. Donald Small, Zoning Enforcement
Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
Ms. Deepa Bhattacharyya, Law Department
Ms. Jennifer Coates, Councilmanic Services



PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

April 17, 2008

REQUEST: City Council Bill #08-0054/Midtown Community Benefits District and Management Authority

To renew the Midtown Community Benefits District and Management Authority for an additional four years.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Laurie Feinberg

PETITIONERS: Midtown Community Benefits District and Management Authority

GENERAL AREA

The Midtown Community Benefits District is generally bound Interstate-83 on the east, north to Calvert Street, north to 20th, west to Howard St, south to North Ave., and west to Tiffany Alley, south to MLK Boulevard, east on MLK to Read Street, south east to Park Avenue, and south to Franklin, east on Franklin to Morton Alley, north to Centre Street then east to Interstate-83

HISTORY

- Ordinance #95-613, approved June 1995, established the Midtown Community Benefits District.
- Resolution #99-019, approved June 1999, renewed the Midtown Community Benefits District.
- Resolution #03-043, approved June 2003, renewed the Midtown Community Benefits District.
- Resolution #04-052, approved June 2004, was the last renewal of the Midtown Community Benefits District.

ANALYSIS

The Midtown Community Benefits District is an approximately 175-block area, established in 1995 to provide supplemental security services, sanitation and promotional services. Property owners in the district pay a tax surcharge of thirteen cents per \$100 of assessed value. This generates revenue of \$890,000, which combines with other contributions from non-profits and institutions for an annual budget of roughly \$950,000.

The Midtown Community Benefits District Authority has a staff of nineteen employees, including three office staff, a 12-person Clean Team, a 3-person Green Team, and one worker on the Safety Team. The Authority holds biannual "town meetings" to receive community input on program goals, budget and to elect the at-large board members. This process is used to establish goals for the organization, and then statistics are kept to determine effectiveness of the body.

Some of the Midtown's accomplishments for its last full year include:

- Clean-up of over 57,360 bags of trash
- Clean-up of over, 703 pieces of bulk trash;
- 297 safety escorts; and

The current cycle expires June 2008, hence the need for Resolution #08-0054 which will extend the Authority through June 30, 2012.

The Madison Park Improvement Association, Mount Vernon Cultural District, Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association, Mount Royal Improvement Association, Charles-North Community Association, and Charles Street Development Corporation have been notified of this action.



Douglas B. McCoach, III
Director