

## Leva, Anthony F (City Council)

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**From:** Torrence, James (City Council)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 2:01 PM  
**To:** Bart Kennedy; Cohen, Zeke (City Council)  
**Cc:** Leach, Faith (Mayor's Office); Master, Maggie (City Council); Blanchard, Zachary (City Council); Jones, Jermaine (City Council); Photini Sinnis; Leva, Anthony F (City Council); Mead, Nancy (City Council); District 7 Staff  
**Subject:** Re: Midtown Community Benefits District

Thank you for your message. I confirm receipt, and Council Services staff will add your email to the bill file to ensure your comments are included in the public record.

**James Torrence, J.D.**

Baltimore City Council, District 7

100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

O: 410-396-4810

E: [James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov)

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**From:** Bart Kennedy <bartbwi853@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:10 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Zeke (City Council) <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>  
**Cc:** Leach, Faith (Mayor's Office) <Faith.Leach@baltimorecity.gov>; Master, Maggie (City Council) <Maggie.Master@baltimorecity.gov>; Blanchard, Zachary (City Council) <zachary.blanchard@baltimorecity.gov>; Jones, Jermaine (City Council) <jermaine.jones@baltimorecity.gov>; Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>; Photini Sinnis <photini.sinnis@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Midtown Community Benefits District

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Dear Council President Cohen:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the continued direction of the Midtown Community Benefits District, especially now that the City is considering its authorization. There has been a focus on expanding activities without full community support that in some ways diminishes Midtown's ability to perform its clean, green, and safe responsibilities which the community looks to them to accomplish with our additional tax dollars.

Those of us who have lived in Mount Vernon for some time have dealt with various changes over the years at Midtown, but our understanding has always been that their core mission was to make Mount Vernon, and the other communities, "clean, green, and safe."

These goals were amplified in the Midtown Community Plan from around 2000—a straightforward document that put forward how the appearance of our community (often looking dirty, run down, and trash laden), was holding us back from our potential—and that activities that cleaned and greened the public realm would improve this community.

You may be surprised to learn that Mount Vernon’s median income is \$38,000, much lower than the city-wide median income of \$50,000. These large, former mansions are largely chopped up into numerous apartments—many people live here—perhaps the largest population of the Midtown communities. With so many people, visitors, and traffic, a great deal of trash is generated here. Properties that have been “problems” have for decades been skirting the City’s trash requirements—many since Midtown was authorized in the late 1990s.

With your leadership, the Midtown board needs do a hard reset, and get back to the basics. We all need to remember and understand why the district was created in the first place and what it was capable of achieving.

We need Midtown to stay focused on their core mission of clean, green, and safe. If they can accomplish those goals, then perhaps other discussions can be had regarding other initiatives—but until this benchmark is met—it should be their 100% priority.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 443-220-7520

Respectfully,

Bart Kennedy

12 W. Read St., Apt. 1

Baltimore, MD 21201