



MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE,
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO,
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

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

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: February 19, 2014

Re: **City Council Bill 14-0307 – Urban Renewal – Madison Park South - Amendment**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 14-0307 for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Madison Park South to modify project proposal requirements for a certain disposition lot and to revise a certain exhibit to the Plan to reflect the subdivision of this disposition lot; 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.

The Madison Park South Urban Renewal Plan (URP) area includes portions of the Bolton Hill and Madison Park neighborhoods. The URP was approved in 1961 and due to the age of the Plan; many of the provisions are no longer applicable or pertinent to redevelopment in the plan area.

The passage of this bill would allow for the redevelopment of Memorial Apartments. The Memorial Apartments Corporation has developed plans that would renovate the existing senior building located on lot 10 of the URP and make way for the construction of market-rate housing on a sub-divided portion of the parcel.

A Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant application was submitted in September of 2013 which provides an opportunity for up to \$30M in Federal Funding that would be used to support the Central West Baltimore neighborhood planning efforts.

The redevelopment of Memorial Apartments is badly needed in order to preserve affordable housing and the work would lend support to the Choice Neighborhoods planning effort.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the adoption of City Council Bill 14-0307.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, *Deputy Chief*

