



THE LEAGUE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, Inc.
Putting Ability First

ADULT MEDICAL DAY • CAMPING & RECREATION • DAY HABILITATION • LEAGUE INDUSTRIES
SCALE APHASIA PROGRAM • THE WELLNESS CENTER • WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT • YOUTH AUTISM SERVICES

DATE: Tuesday, June 14, 2022

BILL: **21-0156** - Zoning - Conditional Use Parking Lot - 1207 and 1209 E. 43rd Street and 1204 Springfield Avenue

COMMITTEE: The Honorable Sharon Green Middleton, Chair
Economic and Community Development (ECD)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Middleton and Committee Members:

On behalf of The League and all those we serve at The League; we are here in support of City Council Bill 21-0156 and ask for your favorable report.

The League for People with Disabilities is a flagship institution – one that has been serving the Baltimore Community for 94 years. Our parking facilities have remained largely unimproved for the past 57 years at the Cold Spring and the Alameda site and it is imperative that we are able to continue to develop our campus in order to carry out our important work.

Over the past 4-5 years we have seen dramatic increases in the numbers of individuals seeking our services. In our Day Habilitation Program which serves primarily young adults with autism, cerebral palsy and other such acute conditions, we have experienced a 400% increase in census, in just four years. As a leading provider of treatment services for individuals with disabilities in Baltimore City, our participants are among the most physically disabled, medically fragile populations in the community. In the past few years The League has added the nationally recognized SCALE Aphasia Center as well as a new Multiple Sclerosis Day Program.

Growth over recent years has forced The League to change its parking use policy from a first come first served basis to one that reserves the extremely limited onsite parking for our clients with disabilities and our fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles. Staff and guests are required to park offsite, on the streets of the surrounding neighborhood causing an obvious disruption to the community.

The League's capacity to continue so many of the good works we carry out in the community is drastically diminished without this space.

To resolve our burgeoning parking needs, The League has purchased the abandoned properties at 1209 and 1207 E. 43rd Street and 1204 Springfield Avenue. Our plan is to put in an attractive and functional parking lot on these three lots. As currently designed, the proposed new lot will provide 40 additional parking spaces to accommodate staff and League vehicles, freeing up more accessible spaces for our various constituents on our current lots located next to The League building.

We have embarked on a lengthy and detailed effort to secure funding and support for this essential project. Through the strong support and leadership of our District 43 Maryland Delegation over the last three Sessions we have secured State grants totaling over \$1 million dollars for improvements to The League campus. We now have a sufficient level of funding for the parking lot and other necessary capital improvements of The League.

The League has reached out and solicited input and feedback from the local neighborhood and area Community Associations, and the disability provider community at large. We have support from all the neighbors that surround the proposed parking lot and those neighbors who will directly benefit from the significantly reduced number of vehicles parked in front of their houses.

For the reasons noted above we ask for a favorable report on City Council Bill 21-0156.

Sincerely,



David A. Greenberg
 President and CEO

League For People - Parking Summary		
	<i>Existing Parking Total</i>	Proposed Parking Total
Standard Spaces	66	79
Accessible Spaces	14	23
Van/Bus Spaces*	0	18
Total	80	120

**These are specially equipped vans and buses which provide transportation for League participants. These spaces will allow for secure parking to prevent theft and vandalism of these essential vehicles.*