



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner

Date: April 4, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 21-0158 Landmark List - Truck House No. 5 (Oliver Community Firehouse)

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0158 for the purpose of designating the Truck House No. 5 (Oliver Community Firehouse), 1220 E. Oliver St., as an historical landmark: exterior.

If enacted, City Council Bill 21-0158 would designate the exterior of Truck House No. 5 located at 1220 E. Oliver St. as a historical landmark. The building is located one block outside of one of DHCD's Community Development Zones and is presently vacant.

The landmark designation was approved by the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) on December 14, 2021. At its regular meeting of January 13, 2022, the Planning Commission concurred with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommended that City Council Bill #21-0158 be approved by the City Council.

The African American Fire Fighters Historical Society is seeking to redevelop the 17-year abandoned, 115-year-old firehouse in East Baltimore's Oliver Community known as Truck House #5; into The International Black Fire Fighters Museum & Safety Education Center (IBFFM).

Preserving historically significant structures will support the wellbeing and overall health of the Oliver neighborhood. Once rehabilitated this property will no longer detract from the neighborhood as a vacant building. Additionally, this property is significant to the City of Baltimore as a historic resource which will be dedicated to celebrating the history made by fire fighters of African descent.

DHCD recommends a **favorable** report on the passage of City Council Bill 21-0158.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*