

May 11, 2011

RE: Corporate Sponsorship of City Assets/Council Bill 11-0274R

To the Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council:

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, a 501(c)-3 organization, is tasked with fundraising for many of the City's large-scale special events (such as Fourth of July, Artscape and the Baltimore Book Festival), and certain cultural assets including public murals and sculpture. Developing these projects requires multiple sources of support, which sometimes includes, but is not limited to, local corporate sponsorships. Cultivating support from Baltimore's business community, and seamlessly integrating corporate sponsorships into programming, has been a key component of BOPA's fundraising strategy for 30+ years. The current fundraising climate in Baltimore remains challenging and highly competitive. We look forward to taking part in this process.

Sincerely,

William B. Gilmore Executive Director

WBG:lb