



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0039: Zoning - Conditional Use Convalescent, Nursing, and Rest Home 3549- 3555 Old Frederick Road		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

April 2, 2012

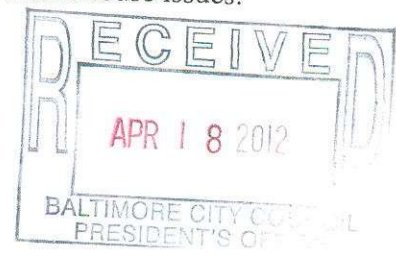
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0039 Zoning - Conditional Use Convalescent, Nursing, and Rest Home 3549-3555 Old Frederick Road. The purpose of this bill is for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a convalescent, nursing and rest home on the property known as 3549-3555 Old Frederick Road.

This bill was submitted at the request of the Mary C. Slicher of Project PLASE (People Lacking Ample Shelter or Employment). Project PLASE currently serves approximately 450 individuals in its Transitional and Permanent Housing programs each year and has been in operation for 36 years. Its goals are to offer hope, "restore dignity and end the cycle of homelessness for clients and their families."

Council Bill 12-0039 proposes to provide for the renovation of St. Joseph's Monastery School Building. This renovation will be conducted by Project PLASE and will transform the site into a caring and supportive home for low income homeless individuals. Residents at the site will have all the basic needs met and have access to supportive services to facilitate their recovery. This will provide these individuals with stability as they reenter the community.

The proposed renovation will provide for 60 convalescent housing units for homeless individuals and 30 one bedroom permanent apartments for low-income homeless individuals. There will be support services such as individual and case management services, a mental health therapist on site, access to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, addiction treatment, GED classes, and life skills support. There will be a full size commercial kitchen that provides three meals per day to residents, community space for meetings, a library, and outdoor green space. This site will provide housing for both male and female veterans.

Project PLASE has received local support from businesses, nonprofits and community residents for this site. For 36 years Project PLASE has provided convalescent and permanent housing services for the Homeless population of Baltimore City. This project creates much need housing for homeless veterans and as well as other homeless individuals with substance abuse issues.



BCHD supports Council Bill 12-0039 and will participate at the hearing to provide any information that may be needed in assisting the council in making an informed decision.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Arnold Eppel, Director, Office of Aging and CARE Services, Department of Health
Tessa Hill-Aston, Housing, Care Services, Department of Health