

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR  
Director

MEMO

TO: The Honorable President Bernard "Jack" Young  
and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

FROM: Ms. Kathleen G. Kotarba, Executive Director

DATE: October 19, 2012

RE: Bill No. 12-0137 Fells Point Historic District

The purpose of this legislation is to modify the area designated as the Fells Point Historic District to exclude Block 1830, Lots 30, 31, and 32/33, and Block 1832, Lots 1/4, 5/12, and 13 through 24; and restating the boundaries of the District.

At its October 9, 2012 meeting, the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) reviewed Bill No.-12-0137 Fells Point Historic District. The property owners of the Washington Square Homeowners Association in the Fells Point Historic District had previously requested that their properties be removed from restrictions found in the Historic Preservation Guidelines that CHAP enforces. A similar bill was previously reviewed by the Commission on August 9, 2011. In 2011, the Commission sent an Unfavorable report back to the City Council.

On October 9, 2012, the Commission determined that removal of these properties from the Fells Point Historic District would create an unusual cutout in the district, including both contributing and non-contributing resources. The removal from the district would create a precedent that would lead to other property owners of both historic and non-contributing properties requesting removal of properties from historic districts because they do not wish to follow the CHAP Guidelines. The Commission determined that this bill would undermine the effectiveness of the historic districts and purposes for which they were established. For these reasons, the Commission is again sending an Unfavorable report regarding this legislation (Bill No. 12-0137).

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: The Honorable James Kraft  
Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council  
Mr. Thomas Liebel, Chairman, CHAP  
Mr. Thomas J. Stosur, Director, Department of Planning  
Mr. Gary Cole, Deputy Director, Department of Planning  
Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Department of Planning  
Ms. Natasha Becker, Department of Planning  
Mr. Ivor Quashie, Department of Planning  
CHAP Commissioners



COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

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