


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Shirley A. Williams, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0054		

TO

DATE: March 10, 2008

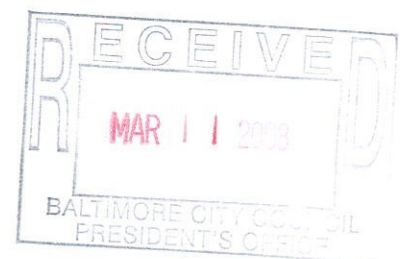
The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0054 introduced by Council Members Cole, Curran, Henry, Branch, Kraft, Clarke, Middleton, and Young.

The purpose of the Bill is to renew and continue the Midtown Community Benefits District and Management Authority; provide for a special effective date; and generally relating to the activities and authority of the Midtown Community Benefits District and Management Authority.

Ordinance 95-613 authorized the creation of the Midtown Special Benefits District (the "District") and Management Authority (the "Authority") for an area bounded by Centre Street, the Jones Falls Expressway, Calvert Street, North Avenue, Eutaw Place, and Park Avenue. Neighborhoods within the District include Bolton Hill, Charles-North, Madison Park, and Mount Vernon-Belvedere. Resolution 99-019 changed the name to the Midtown Community Benefits District and provided for the continuation of the District and Authority until June 30, 2003. Ordinance 99-432 expanded the boundaries of the District and Authority to include properties along the west side of Eutaw Street, the State Office Complex, the Armory, the former Baltimore Life Insurance Building (now known as Symphony Place), and modified the boundaries near North Avenue to line up with the adjacent boundaries of the Charles Village Community Benefits District.

Chapter 89, Acts of 2000 amended Charter Article II, §63(h) and established a new four-year review cycle, effective December 2003. As an interim measure, Resolution 03-043 renewed and continued the District and Authority for a one-year period, ending June 30, 2004, to align future renewals with the change in State law. Resolution 04-052 continued the District and Authority for a full, 4-year period that ends June 30, 2008.




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The District and the Authority were established to promote and market the area, provide supplemental security and maintenance services, public amenities, and generally improve the desirability and livability of the area. To provide these services, the District was designated a special taxing district. Certain property owners within the District are taxed in excess of City property taxes at a rate set by the Board of Estimates, and these funds provide the operating capital for the District programs. A Board of Directors governs the Authority and is composed of one voting member appointed by the Mayor, one member appointed by the President of the City Council (from the Council), at least eight voting members from certain constituent organizations within the District, four at-large voting members from certain constituent communities, and up to 11 additional voting members from churches and nonprofits, bordering organizations and others deemed to enhance the Authority's success.

Under conditions set forth in the enabling ordinance, the City Council is required to hold a public hearing (every four years) to evaluate the activities and undertakings of the Authority and the District, and to determine whether the District should continue for an additional four years.

The Department of Public Works supports the continuation of the Midtown Community Benefits District and the Management Authority for an additional four years (ending June 30, 2012) and therefore recommends passage of City Council Bill 08-0054.


SHIRLEY A. WILLIAMS
ACTING DIRECTOR

SAW/MMC:pat