



HEARING NOTES

City Council Resolution: 22-0096R

Approving the Submission of an Application to the State of Maryland for the Re-designation of Baltimore City's Modified Consolidated Enterprise Zone and its Focus Areas

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022

Time (Beginning): 2:40 PM

Time (Ending): 3:05 PM

Location: Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: Approximately 28

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey Antonio Glover Odette Ramos Robert Stokes

Bill Synopsis in the file? yes no n/a

Attendance sheet in the file? yes no n/a

Agency reports read?..... yes no n/a

Video or audio-digitally recorded? yes no n/a

Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? yes no n/a

Evidence of notification to property owners?..... yes no n/a

Final vote taken at this hearing? yes no n/a

Motioned by:.....Councilmember Mark Conway

Seconded by:.....Councilmember Ryan Dorsey

Final Vote:..... Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Hilary Ruley, Law Department
- Kimberly Clark, Executive Vice President, Baltimore Development Corporation

- Pedro Aponte, Department of Finance

Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilmember Sharon Green Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives and read the bill into the record.
2. Kimberly Clark provided information about the resolution. The Enterprise Zone (EZ) offers real property and employment tax credits to developers and businesses. Residential properties meet the qualification for the EZ tax credits, but the credits can only be applied to commercial properties. Criteria for qualifying an entity for the Enterprise Zone as well as Focus Area are different. The EZ re-designation application and a map, showing both the EZ and Focus areas, will be submitted to the Department of Commerce by April 15, 2022 for approval by June 30, 2022 in order to become effective July 1, 2022.
3. Committee members asked questions about: equity issues and areas within the EZ area that could qualify as Focus Areas, but have not been deemed as such. Enterprise Zones were qualified first and then Focus Areas. According to Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), every Focus Area that could have been designated as such was. According to BDC's consultation with the Department of Commerce, any census tract area that touched upon a commercial corridor would qualify that commercial corridor as being part of the Enterprise Zones and Focus Areas. Consequently, the commercial corridor will have qualifying and non-qualifying census tracts attached. There is currently State legislation that impacts EZ areas.
4. Agency representatives provided testimony. Pedro Aponte explained the Department of Finance's report. EZ tax credits are one of the most expensive credits that the City offers, but are needed. The State of Maryland reimburses a portion of the tax credits
5. The hearing was opened for public testimony. No one testified.
6. The committee voted to recommend the resolution favorably.
7. The hearing was adjourned.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

The committee would like a list of all businesses that have received Enterprise Zone and Focus Area credits over the last five years.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, ChairYea
John Bullock:Yea
Mark Conway:Yea

Ryan Dorsey:Yea
Antonio Glover:Yea
Odette Ramos:Yea
Robert Stokes:Yea

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: March 23, 2022

cc: Bill File

OCS Chrono File