

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor
101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

October 8, 2008

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 08-0022 – Urban Renewal – Hamilton Business Area –
Amendment ____

Dear Madame President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0022 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill as introduced specifies prohibited uses – including religious institutions – in the Community Business Area and provides that an existing use that does not comply with this Renewal Plan would be allowed to continue for an indefinite period of time. The Planning Commission recommended amendments to the bill that remove the prohibition against religious institutions and provide that a lawfully existing use that does not conform to the applicable use regulations of the Renewal Plan may be continued as a “nonconforming use” pursuant to Title 13 of the Zoning Code. The Law Department supports the amendments recommended by the Planning Commission.

City Council Bill 08-0022 is in accordance with the Housing and Urban Renewal Article of the Baltimore City Code. See *Baltimore City Code*, Article 13, § 2-6. Therefore, subject to the amendments recommended by the Planning Commission, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Deepa Bhattacharyya
Assistant Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Robert Curran
George Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Assistant Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Assistant Solicitor



F/A