



DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE, INC.

217 North Charles Street · Suite 100 · Baltimore, MD 21201-4101

T 410.244.1030 · F 410.244.8670 · GoDowntownBaltimore.com

February 5, 2009

The Hon. Stephanie Rawlings Blake
Baltimore City Council, Office of the President
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: CB 08-0018 (Maritime Industrial Overlay District – Extending “Sunset” – Owner Opt-Out)

Dear Council President Blake:

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore supports extending the provisions that would allow owners of property within the Maritime Industrial (Zoning) Overlay District to apply for removal from this District.

While the needs of the Port of Baltimore should remain a priority, there currently is industrial land along the waterfront, particularly around the Inner Harbor and Middle Branch, that could be opened for development without compromising future Port growth. Baltimore’s dramatic recent growth in employment, residences, investment, and property value has come largely from the area around the waterfront and, with careful oversight, this growth is expected to continue in ways that will benefit the regional economy.

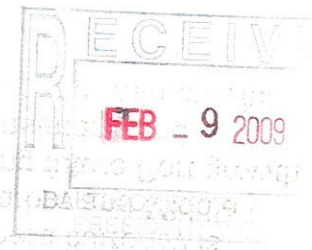
The city’s economy has made the transition from industrial to entrepreneurial, and it is time our zoning policy recognizes this important shift.

Thank you for your consideration. And do not hesitate to call me should you require any further information on The Partnership’s position in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kirby Fowler
President

Cc: The Honorable Sheila Dixon, Mayor
Angela Gibson



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