



## MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner ak

Date: October 20, 2020

### Re: City Council Bill 20-0553 Urban Renewal - Washington Village - Amendment

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0553 for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Washington Village to revise an exhibit to the Renewal Plan to reflect the addition of a new disposition lot and to clarify and correct certain references in the Plan; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

At its regular meeting of August 20, 2020, the Planning Commission concurred with its Planning Staff and recommended approval of City Council Bill 20-0553.

If enacted, City Council Bill 20-0553 would allow for the disposition of the property located at 856 Washington Boulevard and change the land use, to allow the Pratt Library, with the assistance of the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), to seek a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the productive reuse of this property. The Pratt Library seeks to enhance its facilities and offerings to the community by the re-use of the parcel to include a new and larger library and job creation opportunities.

An amendment to the Washington Village Urban Renewal Plan (URP) is required in order to authorize the disposition of the property and change the land use to allow for a mixed-use development which includes a larger library space.

DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Bill 20-0553.

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cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*