

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 15-0509

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO DATE: October 1, 2015

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 15-0509 introduced by Council Member Kraft and Council President Young.

The purpose of the Bill is to designate the Eastern Avenue Pumping Station, 751 Eastern Avenue, as a historical landmark.

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station is an impressive structure that was built to convey sewage from a low point in the City and pump it so that it could then flow by gravity to the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Essex, Maryland. The pumping station was completed in 1912 to coincide with the installation of collection sewers throughout the City and the completion of one of the earliest plants to treat wastewater to secondary treatment levels (removal of dissolved solids by the action of microorganisms), a massive capital program undertaking. The pumping station was constructed to house three large, vertical triple expansion steam driven Corliss engines and pumps that filled the interior with impressive brass fittings, valves and piping. Today, the wastewater flow is handled by a series of five centrifugal-type turbine electric pumps.

Beginning in the early 1980s, the rear portion of the Eastern Avenue Pumping Station housed the first museum that educated visitors about the development of public infrastructure and its impact on public health and the growth of Baltimore. Funded by the Department of Public Works, the Public Works Museum had to close in 2010 due to budget shortfalls. The City is currently leasing the former museum space to a private nonprofit organization made up of dedicated board members who are developing plans to renovate, revive, and reopen the museum.

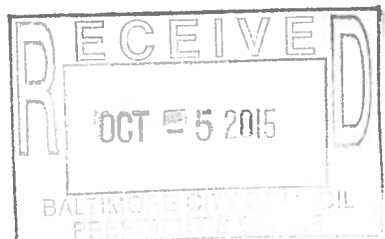
Recognizing and preserving our architectural heritage is an important part of our culture. The Department of Public Works is proud of the role it has played in public health protections and the development of Baltimore. On September 19th the Department hosted a centennial celebration of the Montebello Water Filtration Plant and dedicated an historic marker. Designating Eastern Avenue Pumping Station as an historic landmark is a fitting tribute to the architectural beauty of the building and the important function it has performed for Baltimore for more than 100 years.

The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 15-0509.

Sincerely,

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Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director



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