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| FROM | NAME & TITLE | David E. Scott, P.E., Director | CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO |  |
| | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building | | |
| | SUBJECT | CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0168 | | |

TO

DATE:

September 22, 2008

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

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0168 introduced by Council President Rawlings Blake on behalf of the Administration (Department of Public Works).

The purpose of the Bill is to condemn and open certain streets lying within the Middle East Urban Renewal Project, bounded by Ashland Avenue, McDonogh Street, Chase Street, and Washington Street, as shown on Plat 348-A-80D in the Office of the Department of Public Works.

Ordinance 79-1202 established the Urban Renewal Plan for Middle East, and was last amended by Ordinance 05-124. This Urban Renewal Plan, along with plans for Washington Village, Johnston Square, Broadway East, Oliver, and Gay Street 1, provide an overall plan for portions of East Baltimore near Johns Hopkins Hospital for a biotechnological and residential redevelopment. North Avenue, Patterson Park Avenue, Monument Street, Montford Avenue, Fayette Street, Collington Avenue, Orleans Street, Wolfe Street, Madison Street, Eden Street, Eager Street, Fallsway, Hoffman Street and Ensor Street generally bound these five urban renewal areas. The goal of the plans is to create homeownership and employment opportunities, improve neighborhood areas and facilities, and reduce crime and grime. These comprehensive urban renewal plans require the acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of properties within certain areas, and the creation of new disposition lots. Certain abutting streets and alleys are needed to be closed to public use for their incorporation into new disposition lots. Street openings and closings within the Middle East Urban Renewal Plan were accomplished under Ordinances 02-463 and 02-464, 04-842 and 04-843, and 06-364 and 06-365.

Ordinance 05-160 established a New East Baltimore Community Planned Unit Development within the Middle East Urban Renewal Area, and is roughly bounded by East Chase Street, East Madison Street, North Washington Street, and North Broadway. Two new residential buildings were constructed; however, plans for the easternmost building were developed using inaccurate survey dimensions. As a result, the building projects approximately 1.5 feet into the west side of the North Rutland Avenue public right-of-way, along the building's entire length. To correct this error, a corresponding 1.5 foot width of right-of-way, between Ashland Avenue and East Eager Street, would



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need to be closed to public use. Closing North Chapel Street, between East Eager and East Chase Streets, as well as a 6 foot strip of right-of-way along both sides of North Rutland Avenue and a 5 foot strip of right-of-way along both sides of North Wolfe Street, between East Eager and East Chase Streets, are also needed for redevelopment purposes (listed in companion City Council Bill 08-0169).

City Council Bill 08-0168, if approved, would begin the closing process by opening the following rights-of-way to public use:

- North Rutland Avenue, between East Eager and East Chase Streets;
- North Rutland Avenue, between East Eager Street and Ashland Avenue;
- North Wolfe Street, between East Eager and East Chase Streets; and
- North Chapel Street, between East Eager and East Chase Streets.

Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 08-0168.



David E. Scott, P.E.
Director

DES:mmc

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