



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

June 26, 2013

The Honorable President &
Members of Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 409
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

Re: City Council Bill 13-0239 – Ticketing Agencies

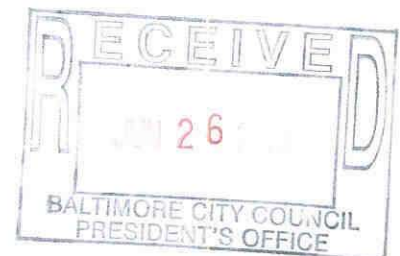
Dear President and City Council Members:

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore supports the amendments proposed by Councilwoman Rikki Spector to the legislation governing ticketing agencies in Baltimore City (CB 13-239). Without these amendments, enforcement of the existing law will cause significant, if unintended, harm to Baltimore entertainment venues, including concert halls, nightclubs, art museums, theatres, and such popular attractions as the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

The understandable concern about the pricing policies of brokers like Ticketmaster has resulted in a blanket policy that will unduly burden Baltimore's entertainment and cultural venues, many of which are already at a competitive disadvantage in the Mid-Atlantic region because of the City's Admissions & Amusement tax.

Local venues receive important revenue from their deals with ticket brokers. If the current legislation is left un-amended, Baltimore City attractions – both large and small - could lose such revenue and may have to create new ticketing systems, which would prove to be both difficult and costly. The current law also makes it more difficult for patrons to purchase tickets from the comfort of their own homes, and its antiquated scalping restrictions impose severe penalties for even selling an unused Orioles or Ravens ticket at face value to a neighbor or friend.

Enforcement of the current law's anticompetitive terms will make it difficult for venues of all sizes to attract regional and national entertainment and art shows, causing acts to pass us over in favor of cities like Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. The negative economic impact will trickle down to local restaurants, hotels, and parking operators who also stand to lose revenue.



I hope that the City of Baltimore will agree that, despite good intentions, the current law is antiquated, harmful, and should be amended. Otherwise, its enforcement will result in a loss of important cultural and economic activity in Downtown, and across Baltimore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirby Fowler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Kirby Fowler, Jr.
President