



DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE, INC.

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April 23, 2013

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 13-0214 – Excise Tax on Outdoor Advertising

Dear President Young and Members of the Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on City Council Bill 13-0214.

CB 13-0214 imposes a tax on outdoor advertising displays in Baltimore City. Through careful definition, this bill makes clear that onsite signage for individual businesses is not impacted.

Outdoor advertising displays can create visual clutter in Downtown and the rest of the City, and sometimes negatively impact the aesthetics of a given area. In Downtown, several plots of land remain undeveloped due to lucrative advertising displays; were these properties to be improved into productive uses, the neighborhood would benefit and increased property tax revenue would be available to the City.

For these reasons, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore supports an excise tax on outdoor advertising, and supports Council Bill 13-0214.

Sincerely,

Nan Rohrer
Vice President, Economic Development and Planning

