



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF BALTIMORE BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0038: Zoning - Conditional Use Convalescent, Nursing, and Rest Home (Substance Abuse Treatment Center) – 4613 Park Heights Avenue		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

April 2, 2012

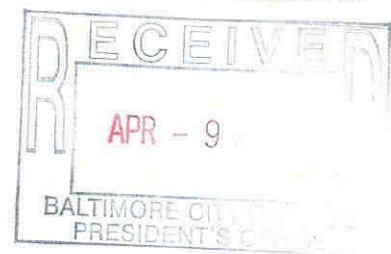
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0038 Zoning - Conditional Use Convalescent, Nursing, and Rest Home (Substance Abuse Treatment Center) – 4613 Park Heights Avenue. The purpose of this bill is for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a convalescent, nursing and rest home (substance abuse treatment center) on the property known as 4613 Park Heights Avenue.

This bill was submitted at the request of the Gaudenzia Foundation, Inc. Since 1968 Guadenzia provides residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. It currently operates more than 75 facilities containing over 125 separate programs.

Council Bill 12-0038 proposes to expand the availability of permanent housing for homeless families with disabilities through the construction of 18 units as part of the Gaudenzia Park Heights Women and Children's Center located at 4613 Park Heights Avenue. These units will be reserved for women suffering from substance abuse issues as well as providing shelter for their dependent children. The new space, 14 two bedroom units and 4 three bedroom units will be located on the building's second and third floors. There will be 20 treatment beds and it will accommodate up to 55 people, including children.

Currently, the first floor of the men's building is utilized for Gaudenzia's Women with Children Long-Term Residential Treatment Program. The construction of the new building would provide these women with their own space and allow Gaudenzia to more effectively treat all of its clients. The increase of beds and services will allow Gaudenzia to better serve Baltimore and its citizens.

The target population is chronically homeless families, where the female heads of household are recovering from substance abuse and often co-occurring mental health disorders. In its many years of providing treatment, Gaudenzia has had many residents leave if housing becomes available. Providing these clients with a permanent housing option will increase their chances of successfully completing the treatment program.



Women who participate in this long term residential treatment program are able to enter treatment with their children. This allows them to keep their family unit intact, and in turn, provides them with much needed stability.

BCHD supports Council Bill 12-0038 and will participate at the hearing to provide any information that may be needed in assisting the council in making an informed decision.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Arnold Eppel, Director, Office of Aging and CARE Services, Department of Health
Tessa Hill-Aston, Housing, Care Services, Department of Health