

FROM	NAME & TITLE	LAURIE FEINBERG, ACTING DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 TH FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #19-0315/ WATERFRONT MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND WATERFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY – RENEWAL THROUGH APRIL 23, 2023		

TO

DATE:

February 2, 2019

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street

The Department of Planning has received City Council Bill No. 19-0315 for review.

Waterfront Management District and Waterfront Management Authority - Renewal Through April 23, 2023 FOR the purpose of renewing and continuing the Waterfront Management District and Waterfront Management Authority; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the activities and authority of the Waterfront Management District and Waterfront Management Authority.

The Department of Planning is in full support of this City Council Bill. The renewal of the Waterfront Management District and Authority will meet the following goals and objectives of the Inner Harbor East and Inner Harbor Project One Urban Renewal Plans:

- “To provide for expansion and establishment of commercial, recreational, and institutional uses by encouraging private investment and participation in new construction of modern and efficient facilities.”
- “To stimulate economic activity around the waterfront and in the downtown Baltimore generally, in the context of metropolitan region, by providing an amicable and harmonious environment to stimulate growth.”
- “To take maximum advantage of the closeness physical proximity of the Inner Harbor East to Charles Center, Inner Harbor Project I, Inner Harbor West, and the Harbor Campus Project Development, by locating activities, pedestrian connections, and vehicular access in such a way as to complement these adjacent areas.”

Additionally, the renewal of the Waterfront Management District and Authority will meet some of the goals and objectives of the Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan. For example, in the Play Section of the Plan, the goal # 1 is to enhance the enjoyment, appreciation and stewardship of Baltimore’s heritage and cultural resources, the Goal #2 is to improve night life entertainment, and recreation experiences for resident and visitors and the goal #3 is to increase the attractiveness of Baltimore’s natural resources and open spaces. The goal #1 of the Live Section of the Plan is to build human and social capital by strengthening neighborhoods.

A Special District is a mechanism by which property owners within a defined area can agree to impose additional taxes and charges on themselves in order to provide enhanced and supplemental public services. Ordinance #07-417, enacted on April 24, 2007, established a new Community Benefits District, to be known as the Waterfront Management District (the District), and created an Authority and providing for its rights, duties and powers. Previous

City Council Bill #10-0619 extended this authority 4 more years through April 23, 2015, City Council Bill #15-0474 extended this authority 4 more years through April 23, 2019, and City Council Bill #19-0315 proposed to extend the authority 4 more years through April 23, 2023. The Waterfront Management District covers the area fronting Baltimore's Inner Harbor, which is home to many of the City's largest employers. The Inner Harbor is also the center of an important City revenue generator – tourism – and contributes to a good portion of the City's tax base. The WMD is also being extended to cover the Fells Point waterfront area.

The Waterfront Partnership is dedicated to improved maintenance, beautification, and visitor services for its community's signature asset, bringing a new spirit of vitality to the entire Waterfront. Waterfront Partnership provides hospitality and safety services, cleans the Waterfront promenade daily, and performs all landscaping services in the area including planting seasonal colorful flowers, manicuring gardens and keeping the area lush and green. The Partnership also promotes the Waterfront as a destination for local and regional visitors, and programs events at West Shore Park for locals and visitors. The Waterfront Partnership has assumed many roles through the years, most recently managing the process to redevelop Rash Field along the inner harbor. It stewards environmentally friendly practices and design with the Inner Harbor and lends visible presence in and around the inner harbor for visitors and residents. The Department of Planning sees The Waterfront Partnership as a key element in the continued success of our Inner Harbor area and its extension into the Fells Point community.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Eric Tiso, Division Chief of the Land Use and Urban Design Division, at 410-396-8358.

LF/ewt/amc

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office
Mr. Jeff Amoros, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
Mr. Derek Baumgardner, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
Mr. Tyrell Dixon, DCHD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Mr. Michael Castagnola, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Ervin Bishop, Council Services
Ms. Laurie Schwartz, Waterfront Partnership