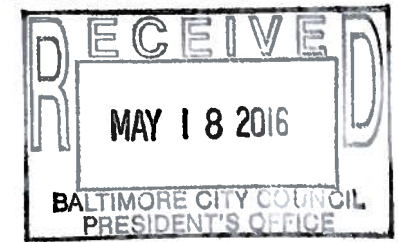


MEMORANDUM



TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO *WHC*

DATE: May 13, 2016

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 16-0660
Charter Amendment – Inner Harbor Park

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 16-0660, a resolution concerning a Charter Amendment for the purpose of amending the provision for Inner Harbor Park to provide for outdoor eating places in the areas known as West Shore Park and Rash Field.

The Inner Harbor, now 40 years old, is undergoing a transformation that will keep it as Baltimore's waterfront jewel for the next 40 years. A new vision for the Harbor, "*Inner Harbor 2.0*" was introduced in 2014 and identified a series of incremental and long-range improvements that could be undertaken around the Harbor. Among those was a renovated Rash Field, which has traditionally been the least populated and most-underutilized portion of the Inner Harbor. To encourage greater use of the Park areas of the Inner Harbor, including Rash Field, BDC believes that the City should look to other world-class urban waterfront parks, and allow for limited outdoor concessions areas in these spaces.

BDC has reviewed the resolution for the Charter Amendment and believes that it will provide an important new amenity to the Inner Harbor that will encourage greater usage of the parks contained within it. Across the country, outdoor concessions have been shown to be a key element of the success of waterfront parks. Placing these concessions areas in West Shore Park and Rash Field will increase use and length of stay in these traditionally underutilized portions of the Inner Harbor, and allow the City to maximize the potential of the entire Inner Harbor Park as a first-class urban waterfront.

BDC supports Bill No. 16-0660 and respectfully requests that it be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Colin Talbert
Angela Gibson

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sandra.blake/ccbill16/16-0660