


MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: William H. Cole, President & CEO 

DATE: July 5, 2016

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 16-0650
Sale of Property – 111 South Hanover Street (Revised Response Letter)

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 15-0650 for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain property known as 111 South Hanover Street (Ward 04, Section 10, Block 0670, Lot 002) and no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

The BDC is facilitating the future development of the city owned parcel at 111 South Hanover Street in a manner that would provide more active and pedestrian-friendly street frontage through expanded retail, restaurant, and other commercial opportunities combined with enhanced walkways and greening. The new development will be similar in nature to other recent commercial expansions along Pratt Street, including the 2014 expansion of 400 East Pratt, which has drastically improved the pedestrian and retail presence on that block.

The BDC intends to release a Request for Proposals for the development of the property, subject to the enactment of this ordinance.

A recent amendment to the bill was proposed by a member of the Baltimore City Public Arts Commission to encumber the parcel in a manner that would render the “France-Merrick Fountain” a permanent element, and not subject to a sale. While BDC acknowledges the existence of public art on the parcel, it does not support excluding the fountain from a sale, but instead that the property be sold in “As-Is” condition and remain encumbered by the fountain. A new owner would bear the responsibility of seeking and gaining the approvals from the proper stakeholders regarding any desire to alter or move the art, which will also be stated in the RFP.

BDC supports Bill No. 16-0650, as originally written, and respectfully requests that favorable consideration is given by the City Council.

Cc: Colin Tarbert, Mayor’s Office
Angela Gibson, Mayor’s Office

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