

The Baltimore City Department of
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner *MB*

Date: May 18, 2018

Re: **City Council Bill 18-0247 - Urban Renewal – Johnston Square – Amendment ___**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 18-0247, for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan (URP) for Johnston Square to reauthorize the acquisition of properties within the Project Area, to extend the life of the Plan, and to remove certain properties from the lists in Appendices A and B; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, this bill would amend the URP for Johnston Square to extend the life of the Plan and reauthorize the Plan's powers of acquisition and condemnation for another four years, until December 31, 2022 so that these actions may legally continue, in compliance with § 12-105.1 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Without this reauthorization, the authority to acquire property under the Plan will terminate on December 31, 2018.

The following five properties have been acquired and disposed of by the City and if the URP is amended the properties would be removed from the URP:

Appendix A	Block and Lot
916 E. Preston St.	1144 056
1214 Homewood Ave.	1155 043
1202 Homewood Ave.	1155 049
1028 N Eden St.	1189 012
Appendix B	
1016 N Eden St.	1189 018

The renewal of the acquisition authority and the extension of the life of the plan are important to assist with addressing the concentration of blight and facilitating the rehabilitation and reinvestment of the neighborhood in accordance with the Johnston Square URP.

The Department of Housing and Community Development strongly encourages the passage of City Council Bill 18-0247.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*