

Support for City Council bill 24-0560 Sale of Property – 1012 East 43rd Street

Dear Chair Costello and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Angela Kidane, and I am the co-founder of Scarlet Covering, Inc., a Maryland-based 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Scarlet Covering, Inc. purchased KidzStuff Child Care Center in East Baltimore City 13 years ago. We serve children from birth to 12 years through full-day, before/after care, and summer programming. Three years ago, we expanded the childcare center to the historic Wilson Park Community by purchasing 1009 & 1010 East 43rd Street. The 1009 East 43rd Street location recently celebrated two years of service; we now serve about 150 families a week.

In recent years, we have seen the need to provide more comprehensive all-day therapeutic childcare services to families with children who demonstrate special needs. Our current centers are not designed to implement this.

As such, we plan to use the existing structure at 1010 East 43rd Street to construct a facility to serve children with special needs. The property at 1010 is currently empty and has been gutted in preparation for renovation. Programming at this facility will affectionally be called *NEEDS at KidzStuff* because we will Never Exclude Exceptionally Developing Scholars.

One of the necessities for this site is ensuring that we have a safe loading and unloading zone for the children. We can ensure that we have safe off-street drop-offs for families by expanding the development directly to the street (Alameda). To do this, we need to purchase the vacant, city-owned property next door at 1012 East 43rd Street (Block 5192, Lot 059).

We have met with neighbors, notified the neighborhood association, and met with Councilman Conway. The support we have received is a testament to the program's importance and necessity. With your approval to purchase the property, we can create a safe space for parents and children to attend the NEEDS program at KidzStuff.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

I respectfully ask you to pass City Council bill 24-0560 and allow the sale of 1012 East 43rd Street.

Sincerely,

Angela Kidane