



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: February 7, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 22-0263 Landmark List: Exteriors - Harlem Theater

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0263 for the purpose of designating the Harlem Theater, 616 North Gilmore Street (Block 0110, Lot 008), as an historical landmark: exterior.

If enacted, City Council Bill 22-0263 would designate the exterior of the Harlem Theater located at 616 North Gilmore Street as a historical landmark. The building is located inside a DHCD Development Zone which is undergoing significant community development.

The 600 block of N. Gilmore Street is comprised mainly of three-story rowhouses many of which are privately owned vacant properties, mixed with some residential rental. There are several Mayor and City Council owned vacant lots to the rear of the site, adjacent to the Harlem Park Inner Block Park, as well as several recently rehabbed vacant buildings on Edmondson Ave.

At its regular meeting of November 3, 2022, the Planning Commission concurred with its planning staff and recommended approval of City Council Bill 22-0263. Planning staff noted in their report that this property is a historic resource that is significant to the Harlem Park neighborhood. The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) heard this Bill on October 11, 2022 and unanimously recommended approval of Landmark designation.

Preserving historically significant structures will support the wellbeing and overall health of the neighborhood while it experiences growth, and community revitalization. The landmark designation may open up additional opportunities for redevelopment in the surrounding blocks including some of the vacant lots that are presently open to bid and encourage the rehab of additional surrounding vacant buildings.

DHCD recommends a **favorable** report on the passage of City Council Bill 22-0263.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor • Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner