



## MEMORANDUM

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

From: Christine Griffin, Deputy Director of Policy and Government Relations

Date: November 22, 2023

Re: 23-0440 Sale of Property – Market Center Renewal Plan Area – 32 Properties

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### **Position: Favorable**

The Department of Real Estate is responding to the request for a report on City Council bill 23-0440 Sale of Property – Market Center Renewal Plan Area – 32 Properties, which is 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 properties that are located within the area formerly known as the Market Center Renewal Plan Area, originally established by Ordinance 77-579 as last amended by Ordinance 18-214, and no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

Under the former Market Center Urban Renewal Plan (URP) which expired at the end of last year, Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) had disposition authority over a large number of city-owned properties. Instead of renewing the URP, BDC would like to regain the City's disposition authority over just 32 of the former URP properties via Sales Ordinance. City Council bill 23-0440 would give BDC the authority to sell only those City-owned, BDC-controlled properties that were previously authorized for sale under the former URP.

The Department of Real Estate has reviewed the proposal and supports the passage of City Council bill 23-0440 as it simply reinstates BDC's disposition authority that existed prior to the URP's expiration and allows for development projects to move forward.

CC:

Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff, Comptroller's Office  
KC Kelleher, Director of Communications and Policy, Comptroller's Office