

Leva, Anthony F (City Council)

From: Torrence, James (City Council)
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2025 2:17 PM
To: Victoria Reimnitz; Cohen, Zeke (City Council)
Cc: Leach, Faith (Mayor's Office); Master, Maggie (City Council); Blanchard, Zachary (City Council); Jones, Jermaine (City Council); Mead, Nancy (City Council); District 7 Staff; Leva, Anthony F (City Council)
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for Midtown Benefits District

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James Torrence, J.D.

Baltimore City Council, District 7

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From: Victoria Reimnitz <victoria.reimnitz@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:06 PM

To: Cohen, Zeke (City Council) <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>

Cc: Leach, Faith (Mayor's Office) <Faith.Leach@baltimorecity.gov>; Master, Maggie (City Council)

<Maggie.Master@baltimorecity.gov>; Blanchard, Zachary (City Council) <zachary.blanchard@baltimorecity.gov>; Jones,

Jermaine (City Council) <jermaine.jones@baltimorecity.gov>; Torrence, James (City Council)

<James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>

Subject: Letter of Support for Midtown Benefits District

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Dear Council President Cohen,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current direction of the Midtown Community Benefits District as you consider its upcoming authorization. Over the past two years, there has been a push to expand activities without full community support—at times, to the detriment of Midtown's primary responsibilities. As residents, we expect our additional tax dollars to be used effectively to maintain a **clean, green, and safe** community, yet Midtown's ability to fulfill this mission appears to be diminishing.

Longtime residents of Mount Vernon, myself included, have witnessed many changes at Midtown over the years. However, our understanding has always been that its core purpose is to improve and maintain the public realm in Mount Vernon and surrounding neighborhoods—Bolton Hill, Madison Park, and Charles North. This was clearly outlined in the **Midtown Community Plan**, developed in 2000 through two years of extensive community consultation. The plan emphasized that our neighborhoods, often plagued by litter and neglect, could reach their full potential if Midtown remained focused on keeping them clean and green.

It may surprise you to learn that Mount Vernon’s median income is \$38,000—well below the city-wide median of \$50,000. Unlike the perception of wealth that large, historic mansions might suggest, these buildings are largely divided into multiple apartments, making Mount Vernon home to one of the largest populations in Midtown’s service area. With so many residents, visitors, and businesses, our neighborhood generates a significant amount of trash. Compounding the issue, certain properties have skirted the city’s waste regulations for decades—some since Midtown’s inception in the late 1990s. For these reasons, we need Midtown to **refocus on its core mission**. If Midtown can consistently deliver on its commitment to keeping our community clean, green, and safe, then we can have broader conversations about additional initiatives. However, until that fundamental benchmark is met, it must remain the organization’s top priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Take care,

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Victoria K. Reimnitz MS.Ed., BCBA, LBA

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