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

Date: September 18, 2017

Re: City Council Bill 17-0109 - Rezoning - A Portion of 1700 South Road

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0109, for the purpose of changing the zoning for a portion of the property known as 1700 South Road from the R-1D Zoning District to the OR-1 Zoning District.

If enacted, this bill, a companion bill to City Council Bill 17-0108 (Amend Mt. Washington Village Urban Renewal Plan) would support the rezoning of property located in the Mount Washington Neighborhood from low density residential to commercial. The existing property is a church and parsonage house that are unoccupied. The last congregation was unable to maintain the buildings and put them up for sale. The purchaser of the property would like to convert the church to an office building and keep the parsonage house residentially zoned. The church is not suitable for reuse as residential and is located close to the commercial area so without the ability to rezone the property it would probably remain unoccupied and become a blight on the community.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 17-0109.

MB:sd

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



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