



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: August 14, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 22-0286 - Sale of Property - South Side Boston Street, South West Corner, and South Newkirk Street (Block 6587, Lot 008A); and South Side Boston Street, South East Corner, and South Newkirk Street (Block 6587A, Lot 016)

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0286 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 located at South Side Boston Street, South West Corner, and South Newkirk Street (Block 6587, Lot 008A) and South Side Boston Street, South East Corner, and South Newkirk Street (Block 6587A, Lot 016) and are no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 22-0286 would allow for either the public or private sale of two lots that no longer serve a public purpose. The properties are vacant lots alongside Boston Street, zoned for industrial use. Highways is the responsible agency.

The Department of Planning recommended approval of the Bill noting that these parcels are of unusual shape and are presently undeveloped. The Law Department recommended some clarifying technical amendments in their Bill report and also noted that the bill prohibits the construction of any building or structure of any kind on the lots until all subsurface structures and appurtenances have been abandoned by the city or removed and re-laid at the expense of the person seeking to erect the building or structure.

DHCD supports the Administration's disposition of the properties as the sites are no longer needed for public use and rehabilitation of the property could create additional opportunities for industrial uses in the Canton Industrial Area, as allowed in the I-2 zoning district. The property does not lie within any of DHCD's Impact Investment Areas, Community Development Zones or Streamlined Code Enforcement Areas. The intended purchaser is Building Materials Manufacturing Corporation. If approved, the applicant will secure and landscape the property.

We support the Law Department's clarifying amendments and respectfully request a **favorable** report on Council Bill 22-0286.

AK/sm

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