


P R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. <i>JMS</i> Commissioner	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0196 Zoning - Conditional Use Service and Housing Center - 620 Fallsway		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

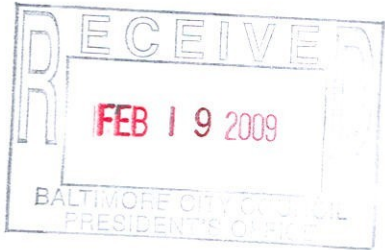
September 22, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to support Council Bill 08-0196, which will permit, subject to certain conditions, the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a service and housing center on the property known as 620 Fallsway.

According to the 2005 Report of the Baltimore City Homeless Census, there are almost 3,000 individuals who are homeless in Baltimore City. Lacking adequate income, affordable housing and health insurance, the City's homeless population represents some of the most vulnerable in our community. This problem has been compounded by the loss of public housing units in recent years. In fact, it is estimated that Baltimore City has lost over 3,000 units of public housing, and the waiting list now exceeds 18,000 households.

Council Bill 08-0196 will provide transitional housing for at least 25 individuals on the property known as 620 Fallsway. If approved, this bill will play an important role in helping to address the housing needs of citizens of Baltimore. The Baltimore City Health Department is committed to working with the City Council to develop a long-term strategy for addressing homelessness. We welcome the opportunity to provide more information on our other programs.

Cc: Angela Gibson



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Fact Sheet – 620 Fallsway

Baltimore Homeless Services is proposing to develop a year-round, 275 bed housing and resource center for homeless individuals. This 24-hour facility will be located at 620 Fallsway in Baltimore City, across from the Our Daily Bread Center.

The proposed project will not only provide temporary housing, meals, and showers, it will also provide an array of services designed to facilitate the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Services will include physical and behavioral health services, case management, referrals to housing, employment, and income support services. More than twenty city agencies and nonprofit organizations are expected to provide assistance. Services will be provided daily, with a rotating schedule of providers.

Services will be available on-site, with referrals made to local services providers. Although 275 individuals will be able to stay overnight, others are welcome for a meal, shower, and services. If there is a need for additional shelter beds on “Code Blue” nights, we will open up overflow shelters at other locations.

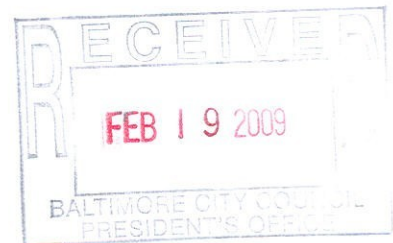
The purpose of the project is to direct clients to long-term housing options and services to ensure that their stay in shelter is short. The project will serve as a safety net for Baltimore’s most vulnerable citizens so that no one will be forced to live on the streets.

The Department of Transportation will vacate 620 Fallsway in early November and relocate to 210 Guilford Avenue. Construction is still slated to begin sometime in November, and be completed within one year. The plans are 75% complete.

The estimated cost for this 35,000 square foot building is approximately \$8,000,000. To date, we have \$2,000,000 committed from the State of Maryland and have requested an additional \$2,000,000 this year. We have been approved by the Weinberg Foundation to submit a capital request for up to \$2,400,000. This will be submitted as soon as drawings are completed.

The proposed Housing and Resource Center at 620 Fallsway meets the M-2 zoning requirements. A bill requesting conditional use of the site for homeless individuals will be introduced by City Council on September 15, 2008

For further information, please call Diane Glauber, President of Baltimore Homeless Services, at (410) 396-7370.



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