

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR
Director

January 31, 2013

TO: The Honorable President and
Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

FROM: Mr. Tom Liebel, Chairman, Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP)

RE: Bill No. 13-0189 –Historical and Architectural Preservation Districts-Designation Process

City Council Bill # 13-0189 has been referred to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP). Its purpose is to clarify the process by which an Historical and Architectural District is proposed and designated; and generally relating to historical and architectural preservation.

The Commission has not yet had the opportunity to consider the legislation, but will be doing so as part of its current review of the preservation ordinance. Given that the hearing date for this bill is scheduled for February 5, 2013, the Commission is unable to provide comments at this time. Over the next several months, the Commission is convening a series of public meetings, during which aspects of the ordinance are being considered. Historic district designation is a significant component of the preservation ordinance and will be considered during the review period. At the end of the review period, the Commission will offer its recommendations regarding the ordinance.

Furthermore, without a detailed review we are concerned that there may be some unintended unfortunate consequences, as there are very specific criteria for drawing historic district boundaries that must be followed by Certified Local Government Programs if the district created is intended to qualify contributing properties for Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

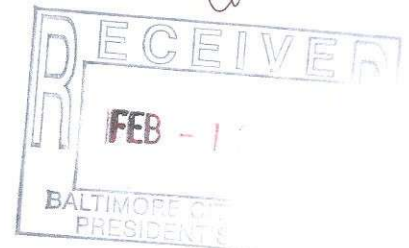
Given that historic district designation is important to many Baltimore neighborhoods, the Commission respectfully requests additional time to fully consider the potential impacts of City Council Bill # 13-0189.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kathleen Kotarba, Executive Director-CHAP/Division Chief Historical and Architectural Preservation at 410-396-4866.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council

Comments



COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

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