



## MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: March 7, 2022

### **Re: City Council Bill 21-0184 - Sale of Property – 606 South Ann Street**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0184 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 property that is located at 606 South Ann Street (Block 1828, Lot 045) and is no longer needed for public use; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 21-0184 would allow for either the public or private sale of 606 South Ann Street. The property is owned by the Mayor and City Council and is no longer serving a public use. The building was originally built as the Enoch Pratt Library Branch No. 19. The library branch closed in 2001 and the building was utilized by the Education-Based Latino Outreach (EBLO) center until 2018 when flooding to the basement and interior damage forced EBLO to move programs out of the building.

DHCD has taken a number of steps towards the disposition of the property to support its return to productive use. In the Fall of 2020 DHCD advertised a Request for Proposals “RFP” for 606 South Ann Street. Of the proposals received in response to the RFP, the plan presented by *Library 19* received the highest marks. The developer has made great effort to work with community partners and has committed to establishing a MOU agreement with the community that will ensure free and regular access to the building for scheduled meetings and events.

The sale of the property would allow the identified developer to restore the existing historic structure and develop the site. Our department currently has an open application for purchase on the subject address with proposed plans to renovate the former library into a new, state-of-the-art building for public and private use. If approved by the City Council the Board of Estimates will be asked to finalize the disposition and approve the LDA. The legislation has no fiscal impact on DHCD and disposition and rehabilitation of the property would benefit the surrounding community and meet revitalization goals of the City at large.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Council Bill 21-0184.

*AK/sm*

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