



## MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Housing Commissioner

Date: January 24, 2023

### **Re: City Council Bill 22-0284 - Sarah Ann Street Historic District**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Ordinance 22-0284 for the purpose of designating the area located within certain boundaries as the Sarah Ann Street Historic District.

At the September 13, 2022 CHAP hearing, the commission voted to approve the proposed designation of Sarah Ann Street as a local historic district, as it meets the requirements of Baltimore City Historic Preservation Rules and Regulations' Designation of Districts and Landmarks. At its regular meeting of October 13, 2022, the Planning Commission concurred with the recommendations of its departmental staff and recommended approval of City Council Ordinance 22-0284.

According to the Planning Commission Staff Report, the properties within the proposed district provide a significant representation of the under-documented history of Black homeownership and residency in Baltimore in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The houses on North Carrollton Street, constructed in the early 1870s, have been in African American ownership since 1928. The Sarah Ann Street alley houses, built in the same time period, provided affordable housing for African-Americans after the Civil War.

The properties are located in DHCD's Southwest Impact Investment Area and DHCD Development Division's Major Redevelopment Focus Area. The Mayor and City Council own the vacant properties located at 1102 Sarah Ann St. through 1122 Sarah Ann St. and DHCD is the responsible agency. 1124 Sarah Ann St. is a vacant lot under Tax Sales. 317 N Carrollton Ave is a vacant lot under DHCD and 319 & 321 N Carrollton Ave are privately owned. As part of the Poppleton LDDA, Black Women Builds Baltimore is renovating the Sarah Ann Street homes for homeownership.

Together this grouping of historic homes serves as an important vestige of African American history in West Baltimore. Designation as a Historic District will provide the opportunity for neighborhood preservation and reinvestment.



DHCD supports the Administration's efforts to designate Sarah Ann Street as a Local Historic District. DHCD **supports** the passage of Council Ordinance 22-0284 and recommends that the Ordinance be passed by the City Council.

*AK/sm*

*cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary of the City Council*