



MEMORANDUM

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

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner

Date: September 22, 2023

Re: City Council Bill 23-0386 Landmark List - Home of the Friendless

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0386 for the purpose of designating the Home of the Friendless, 1313 Druid Hill Avenue, as a historical landmark: exterior; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 23-0386 would designate the exterior of the Home of the Friendless located at 1313 Druid Hill Ave. as a historical landmark. The building is located in the Upton neighborhood and is part of the West Impact Investment Area which is undergoing significant community development.

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) heard this Bill on June 13, 2023 and recommended approval of Landmark designation. At its regular meeting of July 20, 2023, the Planning Commission concurred with its planning staff and recommended approval of City Council Bill 23-0386.

Planning staff noted in their report that in 2022, DHCD began undertaking a \$2.3 million stabilization of the building, sourced from federal, state, and local funds. The stabilization is slated to be completed between late Summer and late Fall 2023.

In February 2023, DHCD requested introduction of the landmark designation bill in order to designate the property as a Baltimore City Landmark prior to selling it to a private owner. Following the stabilization of the property, it will again be listed for sale through the Request for Proposals process.

This property is a historic resource that is significant to the Old West Baltimore neighborhood. Preserving historically significant structures will support the wellbeing and overall health of the neighborhood while it experiences growth, and community revitalization. The landmark designation may open up additional funding opportunities for redevelopment of the building. DHCD's hope is that the redevelopment of this building will further encourage the rehab of additional vacant buildings in the immediate area.

DHCD recommends a **favorable** report on the passage of City Council Bill 23-0386.



AK/sm

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