

Leva, Anthony F (City Council)

From: Torrence, James (City Council)
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2025 1:05 PM
To: robert wagner; Cohen, Zeke (City Council)
Cc: Leach, Faith (Mayor's Office); Master, Maggie (City Council); Blanchard, Zachary (City Council); Jones, Jermaine (City Council); Leva, Anthony F (City Council); Mead, Nancy (City Council); District 7 Staff
Subject: Re: Midtown Benefits Authorization - Please Read

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James Torrence, J.D.

Baltimore City Council, District 7

100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

O: 410-396-4810

E: James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov

From: robert wagner <rob.wagner123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2025 12:17 PM
To: Cohen, Zeke (City Council) <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: Leach, Faith (Mayor's Office) <Faith.Leach@baltimorecity.gov>; Master, Maggie (City Council) <Maggie.Master@baltimorecity.gov>; Blanchard, Zachary (City Council) <zachary.blanchard@baltimorecity.gov>; Jones, Jermaine (City Council) <jermaine.jones@baltimorecity.gov>; Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Midtown Benefits Authorization - Please Read

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Dear Council President Cohen:

I have owned a property in Mount Vernon for many years now and I love this community and the neighbors that live here. I wanted to express my concern that is shared by many regarding the continued direction of the Midtown Community Benefits District as you consider the upcoming authorization. Over the last two years, there has been a focus on expanding activities without full community support that in some ways diminishes Midtown's ability to perform its clean, green, and safe responsibilities which the community looks to them to accomplish with our additional tax dollars. Those of us who have lived a while in Mount Vernon have dealt with various changes over the years at Midtown, but our understanding has always been that their core mission was to make Mount Vernon, and the other communities, "clean, green, and safe."

These goals were amplified in the Midtown Community Plan which was developed in 2000 after two years of consultation and input from all 4 neighborhoods- Mt. Vernon, Bolton Hill, Madison Park, and Charles North—a straightforward document that put forward how the appearance of our community (often looking dirty, run down, and trash laden), was holding us back from our potential—and that activities that cleaned and greened the public realm would improve this community.

You may be surprised to learn that Mount Vernon's median income is \$38,000, much lower than the city-wide's median income of \$50,000. These large, former mansions are largely chopped up into numerous apartments—many people live here—perhaps the largest population of the Midtown communities. With so many people, visitors, and traffic, a great deal of trash is generated here. Properties that have been “problems” have for decades been skirting the City's trash requirements—many since Midtown was authorized in the late 1990s.

It is very important to me that Midtown stay focused on their core mission of clean, green, and safe. If they can accomplish these goals, then perhaps other discussions can be had regarding other initiatives—but until this benchmark is met—it should be their 100% priority.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at 240- 475-8196

Respectfully,
Robert Wagner