

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Office of the City Council President
100 N. Holliday St., Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: *COUNCIL BILL 16-0660 (Resolution)*

Dear Mr. President and City Council Members:

Visit Baltimore, the Designation Marketing Organization for the City of Baltimore and an independent 501(c)(6) membership-based not for profit, has been asked to comment on **Council Bill 16-0660 - Resolution - Charter Amendment - Inner Harbor Park**.

The current limitation on commercial acreage north of Conway street extension is 3.2 acres. The proposed amendment seeks to add .5 acre allowed at the Inner Harbor for outdoor eateries in both West Shore Park and Rash Field. Outdoor concessions, especially outdoor cafes, have proven to be attractive amenities in waterfront parks across the country - drawing more people to use the parks and to stay longer in the parks. Recognizing that the Inner Harbor is a top tourism destination in Baltimore, and that the proposed eaters would neighbor the Baltimore Visitor Center, we are confident that adding such amenities would enhance the experience of locals and visitors to our city alike. Furthermore, we understand the revenues gained from leasing said outdoor cafes would further elevate the Inner Harbor visitor experience as it would be dedicated to Inner Harbor park maintenance.

Visit Baltimore respectfully asks the City Council give favorable consideration of this bill, and, allow the Charter Amendment to be placed on the November ballot.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Melton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Melton
Interim President & CEO

Drafted by: Allison Burr-Livingstone, Director of Public Affairs

Cc: Colin Tarbert
Angela Gibson