

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: July 5, 2017

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 17-0090
Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 17-0090, an ordinance for the purpose of designating the Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue, as an historical landmark: exterior.

Harry O. Wilson was a prominent businessman, banker and landlord in Baltimore during the early 20th century. At a time when it was challenging for African-Americans to own a home, both because of redlining and because banks refused to lend to them, Mr. Wilson bought 1,000 acres in East Baltimore. There he sold lots and built houses in a neighborhood which he named Wilson Park.

Mr. Wilson designed his personal residence as a large, single-family structure, measuring approximately 2,400 square feet, and he erected multiple outbuildings on the property. Because of the unique design elements and the historical significance of Wilson Park, the Harry O. Wilson House should be landmarked and preserved.

BDC supports the proposed ordinance and is respectfully requesting that Bill No. 17-0090 be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Kyron Banks