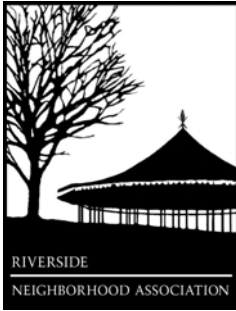


June 2, 2008



Re: Bill 08-0117, Key Highway Urban Renewal Amendment

Dear Councilmember;

On behalf of the Riverside Neighborhood Association, a community of over 1700 homes; please accept this as formal opposition to Bill 08-0117.

The Planning Commission recently approved a Master Plan for Key Highway South, which should be used as the guideline for all future development on the southern side of our city's waterfront. The Planning Commission, as a well thought out and creative plan for the waterfront, acclaimed this Master Plan. The Plan's major goal is to put an end to the "fortress like quality" that has been created by the other developments on Key Highway. The Administration and the Planning Department were instrumental in helping the task force develop a Master Plan that would create a more inviting environment on the waterfront and preserve the city's longstanding connection to the waterfront. Furthermore, a key part of the Key Highway South plan was to move Harborview's Lot 6 into the KHS plan. This lot was to be an integral part of the future of the waterfront and its removal from the Key Highway URO was to be in this amendment. As it is not part of the amendment, it puts the Master Plan in jeopardy.

Although this Master Plan is for Key Highway South, our community expects the vision of this plan to begin now. This amendment stands in complete contradiction to the well thought out plan so strongly backed by our Administration and Planning Department. Approving this amendment will only further the fortress like quality and excessive lot coverage that the Master Plan views as unacceptable for future development.

The Riverside Neighborhood Association looks to our City Council Members to do what is right and appropriate for Baltimore City's most valuable asset, our waterfront. We formally ask the Council to deny this amendment and ask the developer to build within the confines of their current URO, which will be more in keeping with the new Master Plan.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,