



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

May 27, 2010

REQUEST: City Council Bill #10-0500 / Zoning Legislation – Amendments:

For the purpose of excepting from the requirement for rehearing an amended zoning legislation if the amendment consists only of a change in punctuation, grammar, or spelling or otherwise does not in any way alter the substance of the ordinance; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to legislative authorizations and amendments.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Eric Tiso

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Henry, Clarke, Stokes, Curran, D'Adamo, Middleton, Conaway, and Branch

HISTORY:

There have been no previous Planning Commission actions related to this subject.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS:

This bill is consistent with the Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan LIVE Goal 2: Elevate the Design and Quality of the City's Built Environment, Objective 2: Streamline and Strengthen the Development Process.

ANALYSIS:

Purpose: This bill modifies §16-403 of the Zoning Code, to clarify provisions of the Amendments section. Generally speaking, if there are amendments made to a bill are made after a public hearing, another public hearing must be held, and the notice requirements, and reading of reports are required. Today, §16-403 provides for an exception to this re-hearing rule in the case that the amendment is either made in committee, or in the case that the amendment consists only of a change in punctuation, grammar, or spelling that does not in any way alter the substance of the ordinance. This bill further clarifies this exception to add the phrase "or that otherwise" to indicate that an amendment that is not punctuation, grammar, or spelling, but that likewise does not in any way alter the substance of the ordinance, does not require a re-hearing.

This amendment should help in administering the Zoning Code by further clarifying that amendments not affecting the substance of the ordinance need not be re-heard, which will save time and cost for duplicative procedural reviews that was an unintentional potential outcome in the original phrasing. Staff recommends approval of this bill.

Notification: Notice of this hearing was sent to 212 City-wide community organizations.

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