

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #18-0247 / URBAN RENEWAL – JOHNSTON SQUARE- AMENDMENT		

TO

DATE:

June 22, 2018

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 North Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of June 21, 2018, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #18-0247, for the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Johnston Square to reauthorize the acquisition of properties within the Project Area, to extend the life of the Plan, and to remove certain properties from the lists in Appendices A and B; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #18-0247 and adopted the following resolution; seven members being present (seven in favor).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #18-0247 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

TJS/ewt

attachment

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
 Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
 Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office
 Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office
 Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office
 The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
 Mr. Derek Baumgardner, BMZA
 Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
 Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
 Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
 Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
 Ms. Katelyn McCauley, DOT
 Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
 Mr. Ervin Bishop, Council Services



Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

June 21, 2018

REQUEST: City Council Bill #18-0247 / Urban Renewal- Johnston Square – Amendment

For the purpose of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for Johnston Square to reauthorize the acquisition of properties within the Project Area, to extend the life of the Plan, and to remove certain properties from the lists in Appendices A and B; waiving certain content and procedural requirements; making the provisions of this Ordinance severable; providing for the application of this Ordinance in conjunction with certain other ordinances; and providing for a special effective date.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Tamara Woods

PETITIONER(S): The Administration (Department of Housing and Community Development)

HISTORY

- The Johnston Square Urban Renewal Plan (URP) was established by Ord. #77-357, dated June 28, 1977.
- Amendment No. 10, dated January 31, 2011, approved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by Ordinance No. 11-448, dated May 26, 2011.
- Ordinance 14-295 was enacted on October 1, 2014 to extend the acquisition authority for four years.

ANALYSIS

Maryland Law Amendment: In July of 2007, an amendment to the Maryland Annotated Code, Real Estate, Title 12 was made that requires an action for condemnation to be filed within four years of an authorization for acquisition. If that cannot be accomplished, then the authorization must be renewed:

§ 12-105.1. Condemnation action to acquire private property.

- (a) Time limitation.- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State or any of its instrumentalities or political subdivisions shall file an action to acquire private property for public use by condemnation within 4 years of the date of the specific administrative or legislative authorization to acquire the property.
- (b) New authorization.- If an action for condemnation is not filed within 4 years of the date described in subsection (a) of this section, the State or any of its instrumentalities or political subdivisions may not proceed with condemnation until it first obtains a new authorization to acquire the property. [2007, ch. 305]

The effect of this change in the Maryland Annotated Code is that all Urban Renewal Plans (URPs) that have designated properties for acquisition and disposition that have not yet been acted upon now need to be expressly confirmed and reauthorized every four years, for the life of the URP. Therefore, since four years have nearly elapsed since the date of the previous reauthorization in 2014, amendments to several Urban Renewal Plans are necessary in order to reauthorize each URP's powers of acquisition and condemnation. With each reauthorization, those actions may legally continue beyond December 31, 2018 until December 31, 2022.

While these URPs are being amended, there are also technical amendments to some of the URPs to remove properties which have already been acquired and disposed of and an extension of the life of two of the URPs which would otherwise terminate on their own terms prior to the end of the reauthorization period. To that end, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has introduced a group of bills with the goal of adoption before the December 31, 2018 acquisition authority expiration, to ensure that the City's acquisition authority is seamless. In addition, City Councilmember Bill Henry has introduced a separate bill to extend the acquisition authority for the York-Woodbourne Urban Renewal Plan area. The group includes the following bills:

- City Council Bill #18- 0241- Urban Renewal - Druid Heights
- City Council Bill #18-0242- Urban Renewal - Broadway East
- City Council Bill #18-0243- Urban Renewal - Poppleton
- City Council Bill #18-0244- Urban Renewal - Oliver
- City Council Bill #18-0245- Urban Renewal - Park Heights
- City Council Bill #18-0246- Urban Renewal - Coldstream Homestead Montebello (aka CHM)
- City Council Bill #18-0247- Urban Renewal - Johnston Square - Amendment
- City Council Bill #18-0248- Urban Renewal - Middle East
- City Council Bill #18-0252- Urban Renewal - York-Woodbourne Business Area

Effects of the Bill: The changes proposed to this URP are technical in nature and are required to reauthorize the acquisition authority of the URP and to extend the life of the URP. The specific changes follow:

- In the Plan, amend C.1.c. to read: "c. THE AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA IS EXPRESSLY CONFIRMED AND REAUTHORIZED THROUGH AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2022." This is the express reauthorization of the acquisition authority for the next four year period. This does not materially affect the purposes of the URP, and is required to comply with the requirements of the State of Maryland under the Maryland Annotated Code, as outlined above.
- In the Plan, amend D. to read: "THE JOHNSTON SQUARE RENEWAL PLAN, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, IS IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT THROUGH AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2022." This extends the life of the URP which would otherwise terminate on its own terms prior to the end of the

acquisition reauthorization period. This is necessary to ensure that the acquisition authority can be extended for the intended four year period.

- In the Plan, in Appendix A and Appendix B, delete several addresses from the list of properties. This action removes properties of which the City has already disposed. The properties to be deleted follows:
 - Appendix A
 - 916 E. Preston Street
 - 1214 Homewood Avenue
 - 1202 Homewood Avenue
 - 1028 N. Eden Street
 - Appendix B
 - 1016 North Eden Street

Community Notice: Article 13, *Housing and Urban Renewal*, is the section of the City Code that outlines the processes for establishment of and amendments to URPs. For new URPs, or major changes, § 2-6(d) outlines the notice procedures, and include postings within the neighborhood, and two newspaper notices (one per week for two weeks) prior to the first public hearing.

For amendments to URPs, under § 2-6(g)(3) the amending bills are required to go through the same procedure as for adoption, that is, a City Council ordinance process. However, “If the Planning Commission determines that the proposed amendment is a technical correction or a minor modification that would not substantially affect the Plan or the size, use, or disposition of any property subject to the Plan, the proposed amendment need not be posted or advertised as otherwise required by subsection (d) of this section.”

Minor Modifications: The amendments proposed to these URPs are necessary to extend the time allowed for the City to continue with implementation of these plans through the acquisition of designated properties. Additionally, where the city has already disposed of designated properties the acquisition and disposition lists have been updated to remove those properties.

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission first make and adopt the following finding:

- That the amendments to the URP as proposed in this bill are technical in nature, and they do not substantially affect the Plan, its size, or the use or disposition of any property subject to the Plan.

In addition, after making the finding of the technical nature of the bill, Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval of City Council Bill #18-0247.

Staff Notification: Staff notified 39 community organizations of today’s hearing, the City Council President and all of the affected City Councilmembers. In addition, the Department of Housing and Community Development set up a special email address for constituents that may have questions about their suite of bills Also, on June 12, 2018, the Planning

Department, in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Community Development, hosted a public informational meeting for the suite of Administration bills.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director