



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

February 22, 2013

Via Email to: Mayor@BaltimoreCity.gov

The Honorable Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
City Hall
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake,

The Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) requests the City of Baltimore explore creating a local Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) historic district. We understand that the creation of a local historic district requires legislation to create the district and retire urban renewal ordinances that would be redundant (Montgomery Urban Renewal Plan – set to expire on May 15, 2019).

The membership of FHNA voted unanimously to support our request for the creation of a local historic district, at a meeting on February 18, 2014.

In pursuit of creating a local historic district, we conducted outreach to: elected officials, CHAP, the local business district, and adjacent neighborhood associations, including:

- Councilman William H. Cole, IV, 11th District
- Ms. Kathleen Kotarba, Executive Director, CHAP
- Federal Hill Business Association
- Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association
- Key Highway Community Association
- South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

The historical significance of Federal Hill neighborhood was addressed during the creation of a Federal Historic District. Federal Hill is significant for its contribution to Baltimore's early maritime trade, which has been largely responsible for the City's growth and development. Federal Hill Park has been the focus of important events in Baltimore History -- it was used for a signal observatory to identify incoming vessels from 1795 to 1902; the celebration of the ratification of the United States Constitution; and as a military outpost during the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

The residential area that developed in this vicinity housed both merchants and laborers largely employed in port- related activities. The architecture of Federal Hill is among the most diverse in Baltimore. Many of the earliest houses in the city are extant in this area. They are distinguished by flemish bond brick construction, gabled roofs and dormers. A variety of Post-Civil War and Victorian era houses provide Federal hill with a diversity of architectural details including: stained glass, bracketed cornices, ornate storefronts and iron fencing. Federal hill represents a complete community with residential, business, recreational, social, religious, community and

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educational facilities, which have and continue to play an important role in Baltimore's growth and development, since the eighteenth century.

Historic district boundaries are difficult to draw in an urban environment without distinct historical time periods of development. Lacking time periods, geography can inform logical boundaries for a district.

Specifically, we are requesting a local historic district with the following boundaries:

- Hughes Street and Key Highway to the north;
- S. Hanover Street to the west;
- Cross Street to the south; and
- Pier head basin line, due east of Key Highway, to the east.

We seek to include narrow strips of land adjacent to FHNA boundaries and extend the boundaries of a new local historic district to the waterline, north of Key Highway (Rash Field and Rusty Scupper) and to the waterline east of Key Highway that encompass boundaries of Key Highway Association (Ritz Carlton, Harborview and associated under-developed parcels). In addition, after additional community outreach, we may seek to extend the boundaries south beyond Cross Street, into the boundaries of Federal Hill South and South Baltimore Neighborhood Associations.

Please advise on any additional steps that we may undertake to create the district. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Costello, President
Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

CC: Bill Cole, Baltimore City 11th District, Councilman
Kathleen Kotarba, CHAP, Executive Director
John Thompson, FHNA, Preservation Chair

BCC: Claire Bogdanski, FHNA, At-Large Director
Jessica Damen, FHNA, Secretary
Walt Ettinger, FHNA, At-Large Director
Jody Martin, FHNA, Vice President
Bob Merbler, FHNA, At-Large Director
Gayle McClure, FHNA, Treasurer
Jen Nelson, FHNA, Member
Bob O'Donoghue, FHNA, At-Large Director
Rich Polan, FHNA, Member
William Romani, FHNA, Member
Aimee Sanfilippo, FHNA, At-Large Director

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