2010-266

TJS

FROM		
NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE **MEMO**
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8TH FLOOR	
SUBJECT	BMZA / 2500 Francis Street	

TO Mr. David Tanner, Executive Director
Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
417 East Fayette Street, 14th Floor

DATE: July 27, 2010

REQUEST
The Department of Planning has received Keith Lewis' Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) application to use the first-floor portion of the premises as a grocery store. We understand that this appeal is scheduled for hearing on August 3, 2010.

SITE
2500 Francis Street is located on the northwest corner of the intersection with Retreat Street. This property measures approximately 13' by 83' and is currently improved with a three-story end-of-row building measuring approximately 13' by 74'. This site is zoned R-8 and is located within the Penn North Transit Station Urban Renewal Plan area.

ANALYSIS
Use: In this zoning district, grocery stores are not listed as a permitted or conditional use, and so are not allowed (§4-1101 to §4-1104). In this case, the property was last authorized for use as a grocery store, which is a nonconforming use in this R-8 General Residence District.

Discontinuance of Use: Whenever the active and continuous operation of any Class III nonconforming use, or any part of that use, has been discontinued for 12 consecutive months: (i) the discontinuance constitutes an abandonment of the discontinued nonconforming use, or discontinued part of that use… (§13-407.a.1). This section does not apply to any Class III nonconforming uses in an R-6, R-7, R-8, R-9, or R-10 District (§13-407.c).

Renewal Plans: Ordinance #01-0165 was approved May 14, 2001 for the purpose of, among other things, clarifying the relationship between conditions or requirements imposed by an Urban Renewal Plan or Conservation Plan, such that the condition or requirement that is more restrictive will govern. Additionally, the ordinance prohibits the approval of a conditional use or a variance if that conditional use or variance is precluded by an applicable renewal plan or master plan.

Required Findings: The Board may not approve a conditional use unless, after public notice and hearing and on consideration of the standards prescribed in this title, it finds that: … (2) the use is not in any way precluded by any other law, including an applicable urban renewal plan; (§14-204). For this reason, the Board must consider the requirements of the Penn North Urban Renewal Plan, which does allow this use in this district conditional on Board approval of continuation of the nonconforming use.

RECOMMENDATION
The Department of Planning has no objection to this appeal.

TJS/wya/mf

Western

cc: Keith Lewis, Appellant