

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:



I am pleased to share the Department of Planning's Annual Report for the 2017 calendar year with our Baltimore area partners and community residents. This report provides an overview of the Department's accomplishments over the past year. Chief among them is the implementation of Baltimore's new zoning code, which went into effect in June 2017. Rewriting the former zoning code, dating from 1971, was an eight-year process and represents one of the Department's largest undertakings to date. The new code is designed to provide clear, predictable and transparent standards for urban design and development. I am also excited about the leadership and progress being made by the Planning Department team in a number of key initiatives like sustainability, food policy, historic preservation, and neighborhood planning.

I have great pride in our City - our neighborhoods, our small businesses, and our people. Please review the information in this report, and contact the Planning Department to learn how you can be involved in helping to strengthen and revitalize our City communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine E. Pugh".

Catherine E. Pugh,
Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:



In 2017, our Department took steps to prioritize equity as a shared value for all of our Divisions. We hired a new Assistant Director, Stephanie Smith, to take the lead on resident engagement and equity planning initiatives. At the same time, our Capital Improvement Program team took on the challenge by closely examining the distribution of our City's infrastructure and facilities investments using an equity lens. Their work to refine this analysis continues into 2018.

Our Equity team initiatives are advancing in 2018 – looking ahead, we are excited to announce in coming months a new Planning Academy project. Recognizing the importance of building trust and improving avenues for meaningful public engagement, we are planning to launch a multi-week course to empower citizens to shape the future of their neighborhoods and of Baltimore by building their understanding of urban planning and policy.

On behalf of all us here in the Department of Planning, I invite you to review highlights of our work from the year passed, and to collaborate with us in 2018. Please consider joining the Planning Academy as a participant and help build towards real change and for a more equitable and vibrant future for Baltimore.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Stosur

Thomas J. Stosur,
Director

OVERVIEW AND MISSION:

The Department of Planning is the City agency entrusted with guiding the physical development of the City of Baltimore.

The Department staffs three Mayoral-appointed City Commissions. This Annual Report describes the accomplishments of the Department, and the Commissions we serve:

- Planning Commission
- Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
- Sustainability Commission

The Department of Planning's mission is: to build Baltimore as a diverse, sustainable and thriving city of neighborhoods and as the economic and cultural driver for the region.

8 YEARS

NEW ZONING CODE

Over 8 years in the making, 2017 saw the enactment of the first major update of the Baltimore zoning code in over a generation. This code replaces the 1971 Zoning Code. It is intended to simplify and streamline development review, provide an easy to understand set of rules, while creating a more modern code that fosters growth and development while maintaining neighborhood character. **Baltimore's new zoning code** went into effect June 5, 2017.

On November 15, 2017, the LAI Baltimore Chapter, a group of land use professionals, presented an award to Thomas J. Stosur and Laurie Feinberg of the Planning Department for their leadership and dedication to the development of the new zoning code (see picture below).



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RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISORS

Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA) are Baltimore residents who influence and offer advisement on the City's Healthy Food Environment Strategy, policies and plans. Advisors meet with policymakers and officials to learn about and provide vision and input to the policy and planning strategies of the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI). The first cohort of the RFEA launched in 2017.

(See image at left of Mayor Pugh, Food Policy Director Holly Freishtat, and several members of the first Food Resident Equity Advisors Cohort)



5-STAR RATING

FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT

In 2017, Baltimore retained its 5-star rating for progress on floodplain management, climate resiliency and resident outreach. Baltimore's strong rating helps property owners obtain reduced flood insurance rates (up to 25%), through EPA's Community Rating System program.



MADE IN BALTIMORE HOLIDAY STORE

2017 marked the third year for a successful pop-up store program run by **Made in Baltimore (MIB)**. MIB is a program of the city's Office of Sustainability that supports local makers and manufacturers through a local-brand certification program, promotion and marketing events, and business development services.

This year, the pop-up store was located in a vacant former bank location at the corner of Charles and North Avenue. Products from over 60 local makers were available.



2017 BROWER YOUTH AWARD

Claire Wayner and Mercedes Thompson, student interns with the Office of Sustainability, were recipients of the prestigious Brower Youth Award for 2017!

The Brower Youth Award is a national prize that recognizes outstanding young leaders in the environmental movement. Claire and Sadie, students at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, founded Baltimore Beyond Plastic while engaged in our Youth Environmental Internship program.



PROJECT C.O.R.E. MOVES AHEAD IN 2017

In January 2016, Governor Hogan, in partnership with Baltimore City, announced **Project C.O.R.E.** (Creating Opportunities for Renewal and Enterprise): a city-state partnership to invest \$75 million and a Baltimore City in kind commitment of \$18 million over the next four years to demolish, deconstruct or stabilize vacant and derelict buildings in Baltimore. C.O.R.E. intends to replace the vacant buildings with green space, residential or commercial use projects, parks and other redevelopment that serves the needs of the community.

1,413 blighted units have been removed between January 1, 2016 through January 1, 2018 and a total of 4,000 blighted units are projected to be removed through fiscal year 2019.

In 2017, the Department of Planning worked with community organizations, Baltimore City Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and other partners to identify properties demolition. These organizations are working to align demolition sites with the Baltimore Green Network vision, and work with community stakeholders on plans for greening.

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INSPIRE PLANS

As 21st Century Schools are constructed throughout the City, Planning prepares **INSPIRE plans** to improve areas immediately around each school. Staff finalized and started to help implement six INSPIRE plans for neighborhoods around the following schools: Frederick Elem, John Eager Howard Elem/Middle, Lyndhurst Elem./Middle, Arundel Elem + Cherry Hill Elem/Middle and Robert Poole/ACCE and Independence.



HISTORIC TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATIONS

CHAP completed 317 final certifications for the **Historic restorations property tax credit** (helped leverage nearly \$60 million in investment).

The credit is a 10 year, comprehensive tax credit program that helps the City in its mission to preserve Baltimore's historic neighborhoods by encouraging property owners in historic districts to complete substantive rehabilitation projects. The 10-year credit is granted on the increased property value, resulting from the qualifying rehabilitation work.

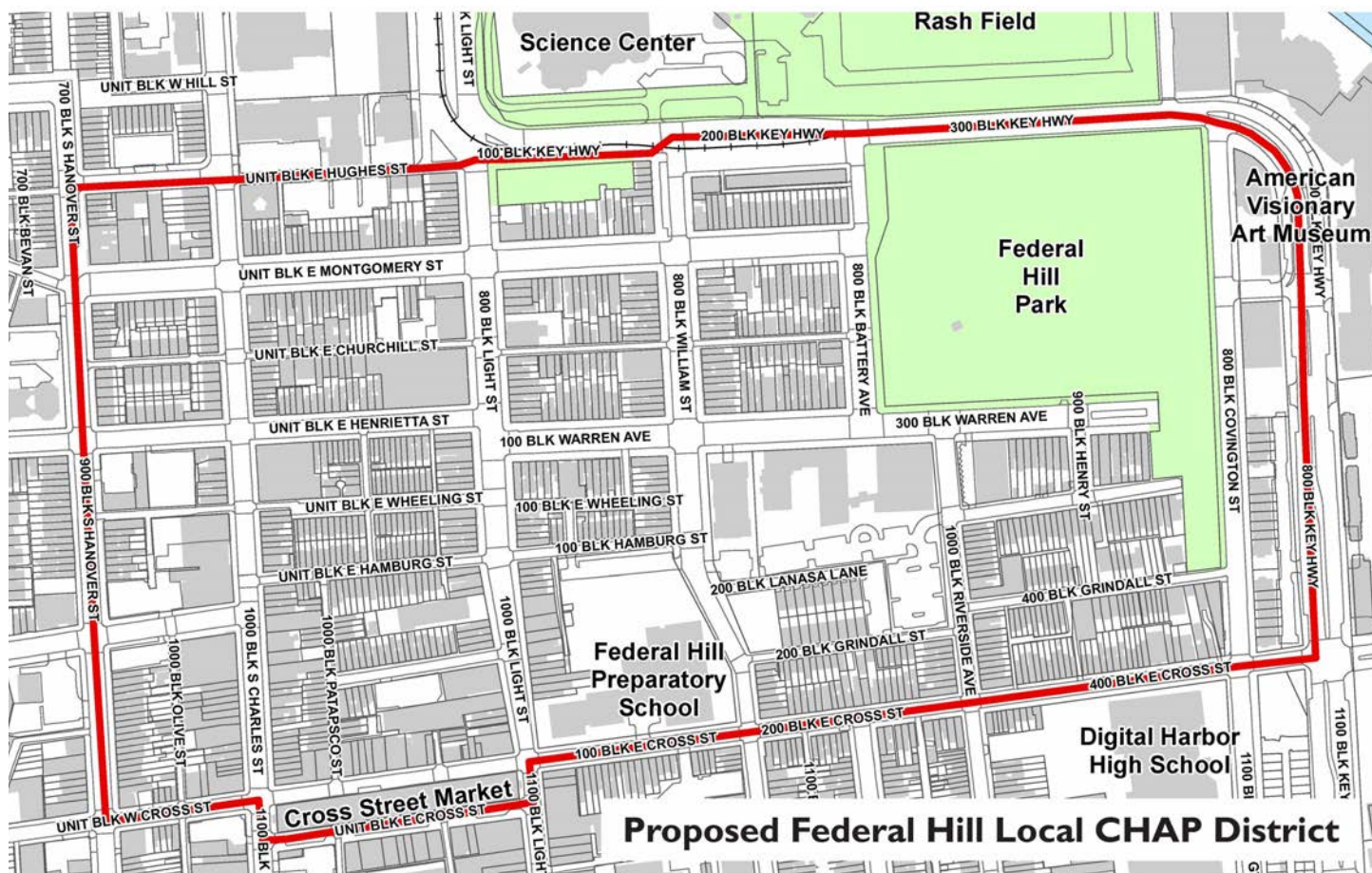
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NEW LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Three new districts were announced in 2017:

- Federal Hill (see inset below)
- Five and Dime (near Lexington Market)
- Howard Street Commercial (400 block of Howard Street)

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) works with historic neighborhoods across Baltimore City to pursue **local historic district designation**. Designation helps to protect and celebrate a neighborhood's rich history. It also provides an effective and transparent design review process that preserves the neighborhood's historic character.



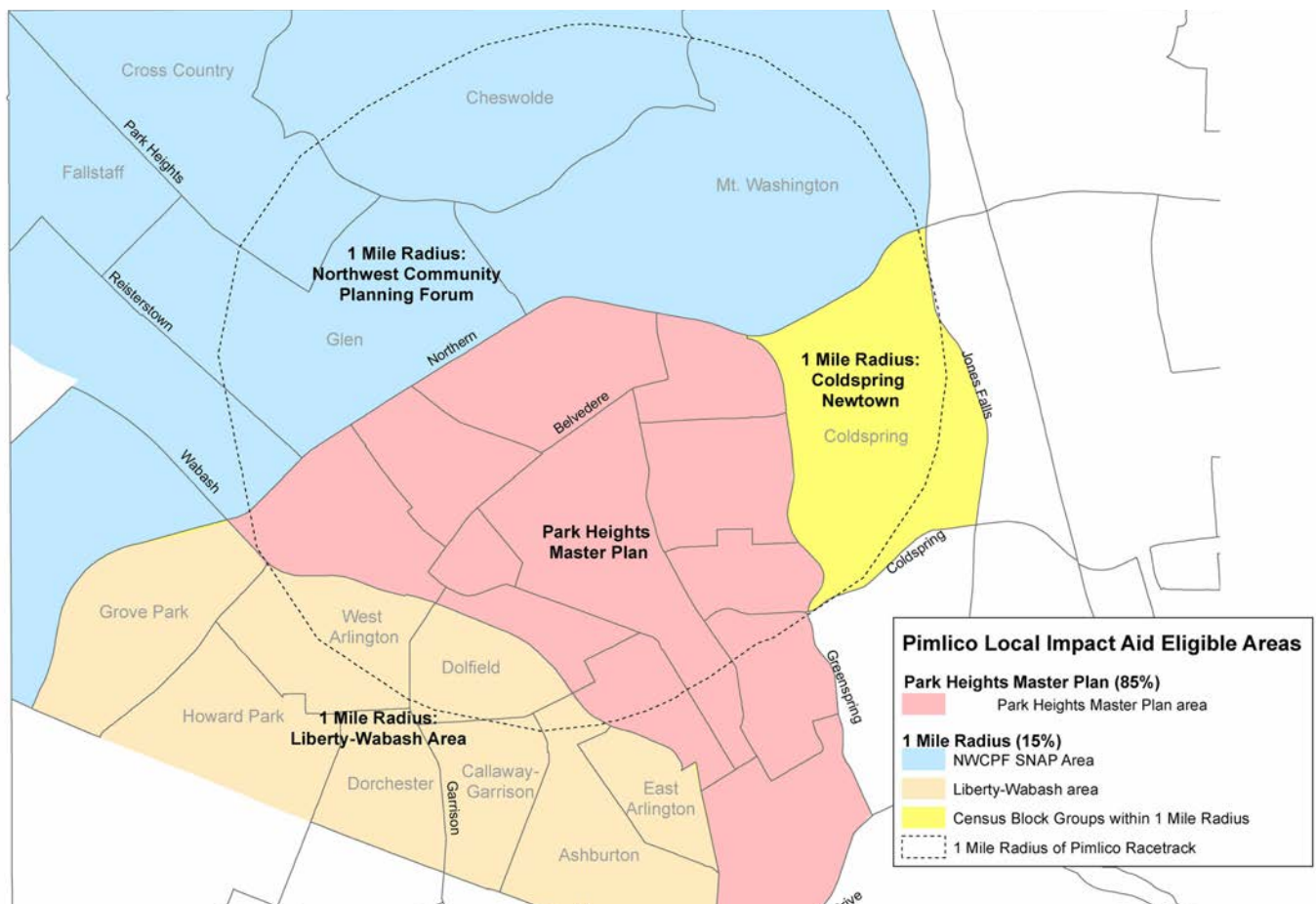
PIMLICO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA) is an advisory group established by state legislation to provide community input on how slots funding is allocated in the Pimlico area. PCDA has the responsibility to advise the Mayor on spending plan priorities. The final funding decisions are part of the City budget approval by the Mayor and City Council.

The FY 2018 Video Lottery Terminal Spending Plan for the Pimlico area was approved on April 24, 2017. This plan focused on where the need is the highest and impact the greatest by allocating 85% of the funding to the Park Heights Master Plan area.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE (VRI)

The Violence Reduction strategy was developed in late 2017 by Mayor Catherine Pugh and the Baltimore Police Department. A core component to this is cross-agency coordination. In 2017, Planning participated in daily meetings with other agencies to review progress towards the goals outlined in the 2017 plan. The effort continues in 2018, and initial findings include reductions in violent crime for the existing VRI zones.





PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EQUITY

In 2017, the Department of Planning continued resident engagement on two Citywide plans: the [Baltimore Green Network Plan](#) and the [Sustainability Plan](#) update. For the Baltimore Green Network, two citywide meetings and six focus area meetings were organized in 2017.

NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Stephanie Smith, Assistant Director for Equity, Engagement and Communications joined the Department of Planning to operationalize our agency Equity Action Plan and provide Communications leadership.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM EQUITY ANALYSIS

Launched a preliminary analysis that mapped infrastructure project appropriations across the city from FY14-FY18, a first significant step in addressing a capital investment equity baseline. Initial findings were presented to Big City Planning Directors network, Planning Commission and Mayor. Further refinements to the analysis are ongoing.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING STAFF (2017):

ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR:

Thomas J. Stosur, Director

Stephanie Smith, Assistant Director

Laurie Feinberg, Assistant Director

Denetra Atkins

Elina Bravve

Jaime Cramer

Tiffany Lowery

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING:

Sara Paraniham, Chief

Kristen Ahearn

James Ashford

Mary Colleen Buettner

Brent Flickinger

Chad Hayes

Reni Lawal

Kyle Leggs

Jennifer Leonard

Carmen Morosan

Marshella Wallace

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION (CHAP):

Eric Holcomb, Executive Director

Caitlin Audette

Walter Gallas

Walter Leon

Stacy Montgomery

Lauren Schiszik

LAND USE & URBAN DESIGN:

Wolde Ararsa, Chief (thru 2017)

Anthony Cataldo

Matthew DeSantis

Martin French

Christina Hartsfield

Ivor Quashie

Eric Tiso

Tamara Woods

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY:

Lisa McNeilly, Director

Andrea Calderon

Abby Cocke

Andrew Cook

Anne Draddy

Kate Edwards

Amy Gilder-Busatti

Jeff LaNoue

Denzel Mitchell

JaLeesa Tate

Victor Ukpolo

FOOD POLICY:

Holly Freishtat, Director

Sara Buzogany

Alice Huang

RESEARCH & STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Robert Pipik, Chief

Austin Davis

Michael Galdi

Jamie Williams

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Sean Davis, Chairman
Talib Horne, Citizen Representative
S. Dale Thompson, DSW Representative
Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Representative
Robin Allen, Citizen Representative
Davon Barbour, Citizen Representative
Victor Clark, Jr., Citizen Representative
Thomas Konstantine Prevas,
Citizen Representative
The Honorable Edward Reisinger,
Council Representative

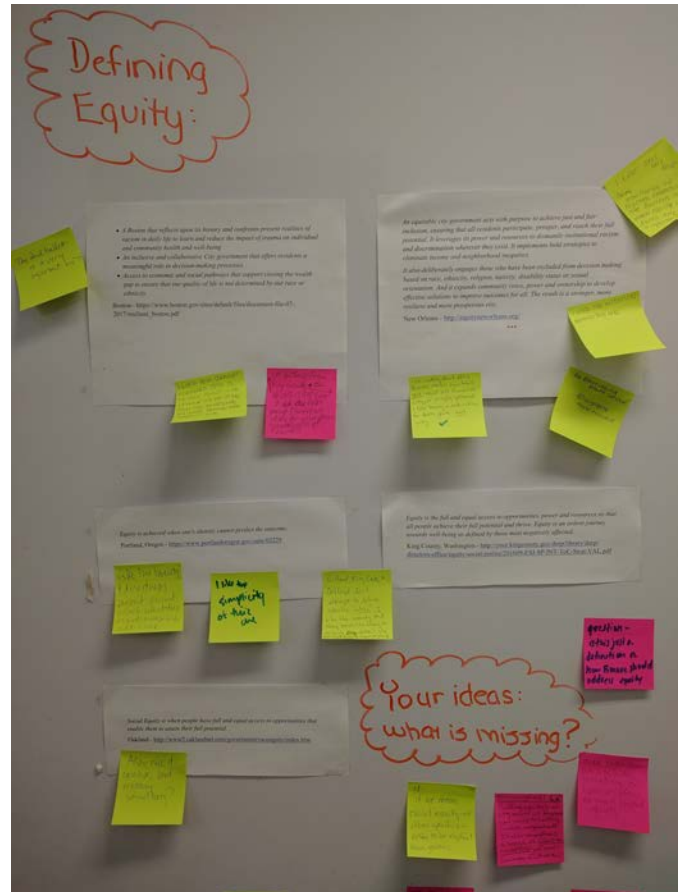
COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION (CHAP):

Mr. Thomas Liebel, Chair
Ms. Anath Ranon, Vice Chair
The Honorable John Bullock
Mr. Aaron Bryant
Ms. Cynthia Conklin
Ms. Donna Cypress
Mr. Robert Embry
Mr. James French
Mr. Larry Gibson
Mr. Matthew Mosca
Dr. Elizabeth Nix
Ms. Laura Penza
Ms. Wendi Redfern

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

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Ms. Miriam Avins
Mr. John Ciekot
Ms. Dana Cooper
Mr. Peter Doo
The Honorable Ryan Dorsey
Ms. Fran Flanigan
Mr. Michael Furbish
Ms. Lynn Heller
Mr. Earl Johnson
Ms. Geraldine Okwesa
Mr. John Quinn
Mr. Avis Ransom
Ms. Inez Robb
Mr. Scot Spencer
Mr. Thomas J. Stosur
The Honorable Mary Washington

**** The names above reflect Commission membership as of December 31, 2017.**



CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

WWW.PLANNING.BALTIMORECITY.GOV