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FOR  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION®

**Southern**  
FIELD OFFICE

March 26, 2010

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Mayor, Baltimore City  
City Hall, Room 250  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake:

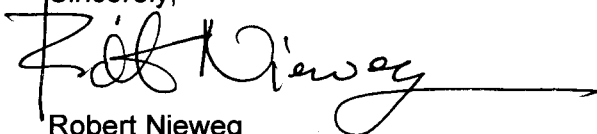
I am writing on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to respectfully encourage Baltimore City and your new Administration to appoint one or more historic preservation experts to the Baltimore Development Corporation board. Baltimore is one of the most historic cities in America – an invaluable asset for tourism and an important part of the quality of life of the city's residents. To effectively protect the city's unique historic character for future generations, Baltimore must ensure that experts in preservation are part of the decision-making about the revitalization of its historic properties.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has been involved in a number of important preservation issues in Baltimore, including the revitalization of the West Side, which we listed as one of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* in 1999. The renaissance of the West Side and in particular the rehabilitation of the "Superblock" have the potential to be a national model for downtown revitalization, and we preservationists look forward to working with your Administration toward that goal. We concur with Baltimore Heritage and others that the project would be greatly improved by the addition of one or more preservationists to the BDC board.

Recently, we were approached by the local Friends of the Senator Theatre regarding the need for preservation expertise – particularly theatre restoration and film exhibition expertise – in the Senator redevelopment. We appreciate the City's investment to preserve the Senator, an Art Deco jewel and the centerpiece of the Belvedere Square commercial district. As with the Superblock – and every other historic preservation project overseen by BDC – we believe that the Senator redevelopment would also be significantly aided by a preservation perspective on the BDC board.

Thank you for considering the views of the National Trust in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Nieweg  
Director, Southern Field Office  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

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