



The Maryland Minority Contractors Association, Inc.

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Pless B. Jones, Sr.
President

May 2, 2011

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

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake:

On behalf of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA), I am writing in support of the important State Center redevelopment project in Midtown Baltimore. Our reasons for this support are straightforward and simple:

1. **Jobs** – the development will generate thousands of construction and permanent new employment opportunities. The development team will also implement a first source local hiring plan to ensure that local residents are first in line for these new jobs. Considering the recent news that greater Baltimore lost 2,400 non-farm jobs last year, every single new job is extremely important to our collective future.

State Center job creation:

- a. Construction jobs
 - 1,800 Phase 1
 - 9,400 total project
- b. Permanent new jobs
 - 180 Phase 1
 - 10,000 total project

Just as important, redeveloping the site ensures that the thousands of State workers currently at the location stay in Midtown. This means that the State is maintaining its current commitments to both the CBD and to Midtown.

2. **Minority Opportunities** – the State Center developer is committed to minority inclusion in both ownership and contracting. Consider this:

- a. 1/3 of the master developer (State Center LLC) is minority owned;
- b. 50% of the office and retail space will be Women/Minority Business Enterprise (W/MBE) owned; and
- c. The developer has committed to 35% MBE contracting participation over the life of the project. This represents a \$75 million commitment for Phase 1 and a \$500 million commitment over the life of the project.

3. **New Approach to Development** – the State Center redevelopment plan has come about through a paradigm-changing process which is collaborative, open and transparent. Not only do the deeply experienced members of the State Center partnership represent the new face of development, they also bring a new approach to Baltimore. This team has held hundreds of meetings of the five years that have gone into planning this project. These meetings were with the nine surrounding neighborhoods, concerned citizens, the State Center Neighborhood Alliance, government officials, elected officials – literally anyone who wanted to know about State Center and participate in its plan. The result is a plan that is reflective, considerate and deferential to the wants, desires, needs and aspirations of the broadest representation ever to be enfranchised in the planning and development process.

The bottom line is that Baltimore needs this development. Let's put our construction workers back to work and get on with creating economic opportunities for all of Baltimore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pless B. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.