



Help Save the 1791 Old St. Paul's Rectory from the "Garage from Hell"

A massive robotic parking garage that threatens Preservation Maryland's Headquarters in the 1791 Old St. Paul's Rectory is poised to receive approval by Baltimore's Urban Design and Architectural Review Committee at its hearing tomorrow at 1:30 pm. Your immediate action is needed to help stop this absurd proposal.

The parking garage was originally proposed some four years ago and turned down under the previous Administration as the "wrong building in the wrong place." The developer of the project, who has himself called the proposed building the "garage from hell", refused to accept that decision and is hoping that his persistence and influence can reverse it, despite the fact he co-owns a much more appropriate development site directly across the street.

The proposed 100' tall building clearly does not meet the legal requirements of the Central Business District Urban Renewal Plan, which states: "Within the North Charles Street Special District, new structures may not exceed the height of 80 feet. This provision is to encourage the maintenance of the existing pedestrian scale of the area...Many of the buildings in the Project Area have historical and architectural significance that should be protected. It is important that new buildings are compatible with the surrounding buildings in terms of building setback, mass, proportions, and materials...Large areas of blank facades are not permitted."

One need only look carefully for the dotted outline of the Rectory in front of the [WEST ELEVATION OF THE PROPOSED GARAGE](#) to see that the building simply does not conform. While the garage would dwarf Preservation Maryland's headquarters in the 1791 Old St. Paul's Rectory (a Baltimore City Landmark) and negatively impact our neighbors in the Cathedral Hill National Register District, we and our landlord Old St. Paul's Church, have been denied information on required approvals and our requests to meet with [MAYOR SHEILA DIXON](#).

Please immediately contact Mayor Dixon, Councilman Bill Cole, and the members of the Urban Design and Architectural Review Panel (see below) to ask them to uphold the Urban Renewal Plan requirements and integrity of the development review process, and stop the proposed garage at 18 W. Saratoga Street. It remains the "wrong building in the wrong place."

Thank you!!

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