



Belvedere

Improvement Association

January 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this statement as an update to the Letter to the Editor which the BIA community wrote the *The Sun* regarding the Senator Theatre two years ago. That letter, which reflects the continued perspective of the Belvedere community, is attached.

What has changed in the intervening two years?

Mr. Kiefaber valiantly carried on with the theater, keeping it open against all odds and providing the immediate community and the Baltimore film-going public with a premier venue. He has continued to garner accolades from the film and historic preservation communities from across the country. He has continued to support local community groups and to serve the public interest.

There has been no concrete support from the local or state governments, despite the models set by other jurisdictions and despite the desire of the public.

But, *now*, we are in a national and international economic crisis. *Now*, more than ever, it is important to support those institutions which are cherished by the public and provide a unique service to the community.

There is no purer example of the importance of The Senator Theatre to the Baltimore community than yesterday's Inauguration outreach.

To make viewing the Inauguration available to all and to provide a venue for many to make it a shared experience, Tom arranged to have a live feed of the event projected on the screen. He made the price of admission bringing canned food to help stock the GEDCO pantry providing food to the needy. The choir of the Govans Elementary School performed. He and his staff were on hand to make the event run as smoothly as possible. The auditorium was filled to capacity at 11 am with a line waiting to get in. It was a joyous occasion, which no one who was present will ever forget. And, carloads of food were collected. This is what communities are supposed to be ~ supportive of one another.

We call upon our local and state officials to work with our community and the ownership of The Senator Theatre to help devise a feasible plan to transition the theater to non-profit status through which it can continue in its important role as an arts and entertainment destination and community hub; to support it to remain open during the transition period; and to retain the hands-on-involvement of the current owner in order to preserve the Senator Theatre's standards of excellence and dedication to community service.

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Serving the Belvedere/Orkney Heights/Elsinore Village Area of North Baltimore

The Belvedere Community, located in North Central Baltimore, surrounding York and Belvedere, is noted for its wide variety of well-maintained, affordable homes with mature trees and landscaping. We have a strong sense of community and celebrate our diversity. For more information, call 410-323-8786.

