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Commercial Real Estate

Northeast Baltimore storefronts head to auction after fire



The three Hamilton storefront properties are heading to auction next month.

MELODY SIMMONS/BBJ



By [Morgan Simpson](#) – Reporter , Baltimore Business Journal
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Story Highlights

- Three fire-damaged storefronts at 5400-5404 Harford Road in Baltimore head to auction June 9-10.
- Lakein's Jewelers, a nearly 100-year-old fixture, is relocating to Nottingham after the December fire.
- Micky's Joint raised over \$35,000 via GoFundMe to find a permanent location.

Three storefronts in North Baltimore that were damaged by a fire late last year are headed to auction.

The buildings at 5400-5404 Harford Road will go up for sale in an online and in-person auction beginning June 9 and ending June 10, according to A.J. Billig & Co., which is handling the sale. The Hamilton buildings previously held Lakein's Jewelers, Micky's Joint and a rehabilitation health clinic, but a December fire forced all three businesses to close their locations there.

The Harford Road auction kicks off with a \$250,000 opening bid and a required \$25,000 deposit. The auction's online bidding begins on June 9 and an onsite auction will be held on June 10 at 1 p.m. The sale includes the three storefronts and three upper-level unfinished apartments, all of which need renovations, the listing states.

The three adjoining buildings total over 10,000 square feet and are located on one lot. The former Lakein's Jewelers at 5400 Harford Road is a two-story corner building, with a retail store, stockroom and restroom on the first level and a one-bedroom, one-bath apartment on the second story with a separate entrance. Next door is a three-story building that previously held Micky's Joint on the lower level and two one-bedroom apartments on the upper levels. The last building at 5404 Harford Road is one story and was once home to a medical rehab facility, with eight rooms and two restrooms.

Dan Billig, principal of A.J. Billig & Co., said the auction listing has already received a lot of interest despite only being online for a week. Billig said the property's owner is not in the real estate business and the scale of renovations

needed was not in their wheelhouse. The current owner, 5400 Harford Road LLC, acquired the property in 2019 for \$490,000, according to state property records.

“The storefronts have a lot of potential,” Billig said.

The businesses that previously occupied those storefronts have been busy making alternate plans since the December fire. Lakein’s Jewelers, a fixture on Harford Road for nearly 100 years and a [BBJ Family-Owned Business Awards honoree](#), decided to [leave its longtime home for a space in Nottingham](#) due to the fire damage. Owner Marcia Lakein told the Baltimore Business Journal in February that repairs could take anywhere from nine months to a year to complete, prompting her decision to move.

Hamilton bar [Micky’s Joint](#) hopes to purchase a permanent location since “rent is not sustainable in Hamilton given our current options,” the bar stated in March. The bar started a [GoFundMe](#) page after the fire, which has since raised over \$35,000. A May 1 update on the page states the bar hopes to announce good news at its next pop-up event on May 20 at Zeke’s Coffee.

