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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Government Operations and
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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the House Ways & Means Committee
In Support Of
House Bill 988

**Horse Racing – Development of Pimlico Racing Facility Communities –
Memorandum of Understanding**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Community input on decisions we make is vital to ensure that citizens' concerns are heard and that elected officials are serving as true representatives. It is one of the reasons we have public bill hearings. This cannot be the case if relevant groups do not have a seat at the table.

The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (the "Act") provided the framework and funding for the redevelopment of both Laurel and Pimlico.

Under Section 6 of the Act, the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Maryland Jockey Club, and LifeBridge Health are to enter into a memorandum of understanding "regarding the early stages of development of the Pimlico site." In addition, those parties are to consult with the Pimlico Community Development Authority and the "communities within the boundaries of the Park Heights Master Plan."

This language omits the neighborhoods that border Pimlico on the north. House Bill 998 corrects that flaw by adding the Northwest Community Planning Forum Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan.

The diverse neighborhoods on all sides of Pimlico have been working together for nearly two years to plan the site's future. To ensure comprehensive community input, all of the affected neighbors should be consulted.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 988.

February 16, 2021