

Michael C. O'Connor  
Mayor



Marc DeOcampo  
Chief Administrative Officer

Gayon Sampson  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

# FREDERICK

MAYOR'S OFFICE

---

February 20, 2020

Chairman Kumar P. Barve  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## LETTER OF OPPOSITION HB 203/SB 614 AND SB 962 – COMMUNITY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Dear Chairman Barve,

The City of Frederick opposes House Bill 203/SB 614 and SB 962 which would allow specific counties within Maryland access to funding that has been reserved for municipalities through the Community and Park Playground Program.

The Community Park and Playground Program has been a municipal-only grant program since 2010 and is funded at approximately \$2.5 million per year. Allowing two large and wealthy counties to access this small amount of funding could decimate what little parks and recreation monies municipalities currently have available through this over-subscribed grant program. Since 2003, the City of Frederick has utilized Community Park and Playground funding to renovate playground and park equipment at 14 parks utilizing over \$391,000 in grant funding. Most recently, we completed a basketball court renovation at Stonegate Park on the west side of the City of Frederick. The City of Frederick relies on grant funding to assist in the maintenance and renovation of our 73 current parks.

The City urges you to oppose HB 203/SB 614 and SB 962.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor  
Mayor