



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

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HB 1056

February 25, 2020

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees
FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 1056 - Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairs Kaiser and McIntosh, Vice Chairs Washington and Jackson, and Members of the Committees, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1056.

HB 1056 provides for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course (Pimlico) in Baltimore City and Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County by repurposing existing state revenue streams into a dedicated account to allow for bond issuances, funding mechanisms and fund transfers. The bill further clarifies a variety of issues of ownership and management of both racing facilities, as well as providing for tax incentives. The Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) is to oversee all issues regarding bond issuance and facility construction.

This bill has several provisions relevant and important to BCA. First, the Pimlico site will be conveyed to the City of Baltimore or a subsidiary designated by the City at a time and on conditions established in an agreement between the BCA, the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC) and the MSA. Second, the bill allows for the City or an entity designated by the city to manage and operate the Pimlico Clubhouse and Events Facility, grounds, and any facility not designated for the MJC's year-round use; the MJC will be responsible for maintaining the track surfaces and have priority use over the Pimlico Clubhouse and Events Facility and grounds for purposes related to racing, wagering, and other agreed-on uses in the agreement.

Perhaps most exciting to the BCA, HB 1056 would allow for the private development of approximately 50 acres of land centered around the Pimlico track with the newly renovated facility repurposed as a year-round amenity accessible to and usable by the neighborhoods surrounding the facility.

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The State of Maryland has long been a huge driver of investment in the Park Heights section of Baltimore City. The passage of HB 1056 would serve as a capstone in the decades long development partnership between the State of Maryland and their Pimlico & Park Heights constituents. As Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young stated when the agreement leading to this legislation was announced in October 2019, “This is an historic moment. The Preakness Stakes is an important part of the city’s legacy and future.”¹

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1056.

¹ Jennifer Barker and Pamela Wood, The Baltimore Sun, Oct 5, 2019. “‘Historic’ deal aims to keep Preakness in Baltimore; track owner, city reach agreement after 4 months of talks.”
<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-preakness-pimlico-20191005-6bn5tr3dinfzejmwlujaszgze-story.html> (last accessed Feb. 24, 2020).