



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 1334

March 5, 2024

TO: Members of the Appropriations Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 1334 – Housing and Community Development – Continuing the CORE Partnership Fund – Extension

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1334.

HB1334 would extend the Continuing C.O.R.E. Partnership Fund which is set to expire on June 30, 2024.

This Bill is in line with the State Department of Housing and Community Development's Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget which allocates funding for Strategic Demolition/Project C.O.R.E Funds. These funds are critical to the work of the City's community development partners, supporting homeownership in the Penn North Neighborhood, Upton Neighborhood, West North Avenue Corridor, infrastructure to support new homeownership units, mixed-use residential, retail, and commercial units in various locations across the City, all of which are historically redlined neighborhoods.

This Bill will be particularly impactful in Baltimore's long disinvested neighborhoods that are the focus of current revitalization efforts. By extending the Fund we will be able to increase our efforts to reduce the number of vacant properties in the City of Baltimore through enhanced acquisition, demolition and stabilization efforts.

The BCA would like to thank the sponsor, Delegate Stephanie Smith, for introducing this meaningful piece of legislation.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1334.