



City of Seat Pleasant, *A City of Excellence*

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HOUSE BILL 1224

Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 27, 2024

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The City of Seat Pleasant urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **HB 1224 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

HB 1224 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more.

We are seeking \$5 million from the Unclaimed Property Fund after usual disbursements have been made.

Seat Pleasant is a Prince George's County Municipality of less than 5,000 residents bordering the District of Columbia. I serve as the Grant Manager under the city's Economic Development Department. Seat Pleasant has a small, incorporated area (1 mile radius). Therefore, we need to maximize all assets and aspects of our city. This includes homeownership opportunities, business retention, façade treatments, vacant properties, recreational spaces, while still trying to attract new development opportunities. Community Development requires much preparatory work such as demolitions, charrettes, project management, analytic work, designs, etc. This is where Community Development funds are so vital to secure professional expertise and services.

Please vote a favorable report for HB1224.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kyrthlyn Rhoda

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Grant Manager