



City of Seat Pleasant, *A City of Excellence*

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SENATE BILL 953

Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

BUDGET & TAX COMMITTEE

February 28, 2024

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate:

The City of Seat Pleasant urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **SB953 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

SB 953 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.

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.

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

Please vote a favorable report for SB 953.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kyrthlyn Rhoda

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Grant Manager