

Michael C. O'Connor  
Mayor



Gayon M. Sampson  
Chief of Staff

Marc DeOcampo  
Director of Strategic Planning  
and Executive Projects

February 26, 2024

Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

Re: HB0960 – City of Frederick – Assignment of Offenders to Road Work - Repeal

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for HB960 which will repeal the assignment of offenders to road work in Frederick County or The City of Frederick.

This bill will rescind an archaic Jim Crow era provision that requires a District Court judge to assign, if practicable, an offender to public road work duty in Frederick County or the City of Frederick as a penalty for a violation of a municipal law or ordinance of The City of Frederick.

This outdated legislation, which existed to continue the practice of indentured servitude, has not been used by The City of Frederick for many years and does not currently serve a purpose in its current form or represent the values of The City of Frederick. Repealing this legislation continues our endeavors to rid ourselves of past laws and ordinances steeped in racist ideologies.

The passage of this bill has no negative impacts of any services in The City of Frederick. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and I look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor,

Mayor



J. CHARLES SMITH, III  
STATE'S ATTORNEY

KIRSTEN N. BROWN  
DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse  
100 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

[www.statesattorney.us](http://www.statesattorney.us)

CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION  
301-600-1523

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
301-600-2573

CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION  
301-600-1538

JUVENILE DIVISION  
301-600-2980

**HB 960 - City of Frederick - Assignment of Offenders to Road Work – Repeal**

The Frederick County State's Attorney's Office joins the County Executive of Frederick County and the Frederick Delegation in support of HB 960 - City of Frederick - Assignment of Offenders to Road Work – Repeal.

We support the repeal of this archaic and unused provision of law. Neither Frederick County nor the City of Frederick currently use this provision to assign offenders to work on public roads.

The County Executive's office has consulted the County Public Works Division, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Frederick and concluded that the passage of this bill will not negatively impact any public services at the County or City level.

Our office would add that the repeal of this law would also no have any negative impact on public safety.

The Frederick County State's Attorney's Office ask for a favorable report on HB 960.

Joyce R. King  
Chief Counsel