

Testimony SB 387 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act Funding February 12, 2019 Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone and the Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

We urge this committee to vote a favorable report for SB 387 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding SB 387. This creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created during the 2018 legislative session. The funding will be critical operating dollars to use for community development organizations to apply for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more. The funding source will be \$5 million from surplus of the *Unclaimed Property Fund*.

Banner is in support of this because this funding that could support our Senior Home Maintenance program. We provide support and resources for seniors in east Baltimore. This support includes exterior work such roofing; repairing/replacing rain; and repairing/replacing windows and doors on the homes of seniors. The average income of the seniors we serve is about \$24,000/year and they are unable to afford repairs to their homes even if the mortgage is paid off. This source of funding will be able to assist seniors to age in place safely.

Please vote a favorable report for SB 387

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Truiett-Theodorson

Executive Director



Testimony HB 472 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act Funding February 11, 2019 Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve and the Members of the House Environment & Transportation:

We urge this committee to vote a favorable report for HB 472 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act. Funding HB 472 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created during the 2018 legislative session. The funding will be critical operating dollars to use for community development organizations to apply for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more. The funding source is \$5 million from surplus of the *Unclaimed Property Fund*.

Banner is in support of this because this funding that could support our Senior Home Maintenance program. We provide support and resources for seniors in east Baltimore. This support includes exterior work such roofing; repairing/replacing rain; and repairing/replacing windows and doors on the homes of seniors. The average income of the seniors we serve is about \$24,000/year and they are unable to afford repairs to their homes even if the mortgage is paid off. This source of funding will be able to assist seniors to age in place safely.

Please vote a favorable report for HB 472

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Truiett-Theodorson

Executive Director