



**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.

Unity Properties is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bon Secours Mercy Health, a national health care system. For the past 25 years, Unity has led a coalition of community-based development in Southwest Baltimore. Working with partners, we have developed over 800 units of affordable housing for seniors and families, as well as addressed crime, grime, and open space issues of concern to the neighborhoods around Bon Secours Hospital. We want to do more of this work and develop more housing, but we need vital operating support.

Please vote a favorable report for HB 472

Respectfully Submitted:

George Kleb

George Kleb, Executive Director
Unity Properties