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BILL NO.: **HB 472**

TITLE: Housing – Community Development Program Act - Funding

SPONSOR: Delegate Lierman

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 11, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 472 – Housing – Community Development Program Act - Funding. This proposed legislation requires the State to invest \$5 million from the Abandoned Property Special Fund into the Community Development Program Fund.

Maryland created the Community Development Program Fund in 2018 to provide financial assistance to community development organizations and projects. County Executive Olszewski is deeply invested in partnering with the State to revitalize and empower communities in Baltimore County. This investment from the State would create more livable housing and community spaces, reduce hazards like lead paint, and provide weatherization assistance to people struggling with the effects of climate change. HB 472 puts \$5 million towards creating sustainable, participatory, long-term investment in communities.

Over the past few years, Baltimore County has seen a great deal of positive growth, including a drop in our unemployment rate and major investments in new commercial and residential developments. To guarantee that this upward trajectory continues, it is essential that we invest in the revitalization of our existing communities. When communities thrive, Baltimore County thrives.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 472. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.