

# **Pratt-Contemporaries-SupportLt-SB 477.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel, Heidi

Position: FAV

Senator Guy Guzzone , Chairman  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West-Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 28, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding**  
**Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the citizens of Baltimore, we respectfully request support for **Senate Bill 477- Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding**.

I am a member of the “Pratt Contemporaries,” the young professionals’ group that serves as a bridge between the Pratt and Baltimore City youth. Expanding the Pratt’s operating hours means expanding public access to services that go beyond what are thought of as traditional library services. The Pratt has provided the only means for accessing computers and the internet to thousands of Baltimore citizens who lacked access at home. In addition, the Pratt provides robust programming and learning opportunities for adults, teens, and children.

Throughout the pandemic, the public’s need for digital connection has become even more urgent as life, information, and access has shifted to the virtual world. Enoch Pratt is leading the way when it comes to narrowing the digital divide by providing wireless access in its parking lots, loaning laptops and mobile hot spots, using its Bookmobiles as traveling hotspots to take internet to the far reaches of our city, and allowing limited access to computers within our buildings. But this is not enough- far too many citizens, especially our youngsters, are being left behind at a time when expedient access to information and services including those coming from the public health and government realms- can be as important as life and death.

**Since library hours were expanded the Pratt has seen:**

- 25% increase in collection use
- 10% increase in reference materials which supports educational studies
- 43% increase in Wi-Fi usage
- 65% increase in social media followers

**We urge your support for SB 477** which will provide the funding to allow the Pratt to continue expanding its operating hours at a time when residents need the resources the most to thrive during COVID recovery.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Enoch Pratt Library and public libraries throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,



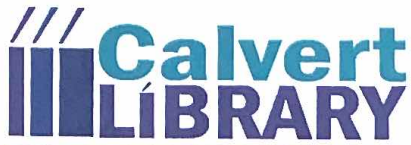
**Stacey R. Wittelsberger – Chair, Pratt Contemporaries**

cc: Heidi Daniel – CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Gordon Krabbe-COO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

**SB477\_C Willson\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel, Heidi

Position: FAV



Inspiring possibility ✦ calvertlibrary.info

Carrie Willson, Executive Director • [cwillson@calvertlibrary.info](mailto:cwillson@calvertlibrary.info)  
850 Costley Way • Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • 410-535-0291 • 301-855-1862

Senator Guy Guzzone  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West-Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 29, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding  
Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the all the citizens of Maryland, I respectfully request support of **Senate Bill 477 - Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding**. I am the Chair of the Governmental Relations Taskforce for the MD Association of Public Library Administrators. The resources, expertise and training that all Maryland residents receive from Enoch Pratt Free Library and the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) are invaluable. Since 2016 when the Pratt courageously stayed open during the unrest following the death of Freddy Gray. Since that time, funding from this legislation has enabled Enoch Pratt Library branches to expand their hours to include evenings and weekends. Not only is this a basic level of service enjoyed by residents of every Maryland County, but for the SLRC to provide the support relied on by public and school libraries around the state, the Pratt's hours need to be kept whole.

We urge your support for HB 436 which will provide the funding to allow the Pratt to continue expanding its operating hours at a time when residents need the resources the most to thrive during COVID recovery.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Enoch Pratt Library, the State Library Resource Center and public libraries throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Carrie Willson".

Carrie Willson  
Executive Director, Calvert Library

cc: Heidi Daniel – CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Gordon Krabbe-COO, Enoch Pratt Free Library



**SB477\_FAV\_EPFL.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel, Heidi

Position: FAV



Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 3, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 477 - Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding  
Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, our Board of Trustees, and the citizens of Baltimore, we respectfully request support for **Senate Bill 477 - Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding**.

As you may be aware, this legislation dates back to January of 2016 when the Pratt Library made the courageous decision to remain open to the public after normal hours in the wake of the Freddie Gray unrest. That moment sparked a renewed recognition for the important role that the Pratt Library System plays as a vital resource for the community. Since that time, funding from this legislation has enabled Enoch Pratt Library branches to expand its hours to include evenings and weekends.

**Since library hours were expanded the Pratt has seen:**

- 25% increase in collection use
- 43% increase in Wi-Fi usage
- 10% increase in reference materials which supports educational studies
- 65% increase in social media followers

**SB 477 Expanded Operating Hours Funding mandates \$3.0 million annually from the State which is matched by \$750,000 from the City of Baltimore.** Passage of this legislation is vital to maintaining this level of service. Without this legislation the Pratt will be forced to reduce services and lay off workers at a time when the citizens of Baltimore need the range of services offered by the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Pratt and our commitment to providing expanded hours of operation and services to advance the library's dedication to equity, inclusion, and greater access to enhance the quality of life for Baltimore City residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Daniel", is positioned above a blue horizontal line.

Heidi Daniel (Jan 28, 2021 13:56 EST)

Heidi Daniel  
Chief Executive Officer

# **SB477\_FAV\_FriendsofPratt.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel, Heidi

Position: FAV

Guy Guzzone, Chairman  
Senate Budget and Taxation  
3 West- Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 29, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding**  
**Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

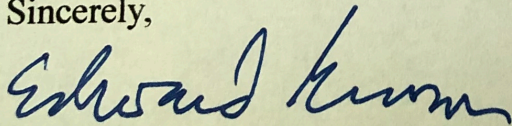
I am the President of “The Friends of the Enoch Pratt Free Library”, and on behalf of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the citizens of Baltimore, I urge your support of **Senate Bill 477- Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding.**

The Enoch Pratt Free Library is a vital resource for the residents of Baltimore and the State of Maryland through its designation as the State Library Resource Center. Given its dual role, public accessibility is very much a part of the Pratt’s mission.

**I respectfully request your passage of SB477** which will authorize funding to allow the Pratt to continue to offer expanded hours at neighborhood branches throughout Baltimore. This means offering convenient hours so that more residents can utilize the Pratt’s student resources, wi-fi, virtual programs, job readiness services, access to lawyers and social workers who partner with the Pratt to get free assistance with human service and legal matters, and much more.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Enoch Pratt Library especially during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Edward Brown  
President, Friends of the Enoch Pratt Free Library

cc: Heidi Daniel – CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Gordon Krabbe-COO, Enoch Pratt Free Library



**SB477\_M Farmer\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel, Heidi

Position: FAV

Senator Guy Guzzone  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West-Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

28 January 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding  
Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,  
I am the Chair of the Enoch Pratt Free Library Board of Trustees and Directors, and I am writing you in support of **Senate Bill 477- Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding.**

As Board Chair, I can attest to the fact that the Pratt is a good steward of the State's funding resources given our dual role as the City of Baltimore's Library system and the designated State Library Resource Center. As you may be aware, this legislation dates back to January of 2016 when the Pratt Library made the courageous decision to remain open to the public after normal hours in the wake of the Freddie Gray unrest. That moment sparked a renewed recognition for the important role that the Pratt Library System plays as a vital resource for the community. Since that time, funding from this legislation has enabled Enoch Pratt Library branches to expand their hours to include evenings and weekends.

**Since library hours were expanded the Pratt has seen:**

- 25% increase in collection use
- 43% increase in Wi-Fi usage
- 10% increase in reference materials which supports educational studies
- 65% increase in social media followers

We urge you and your committee to support SB 477 which will provide funding to allow the Pratt to continue expanding its operating hours at a time when residents need the resources the most to thrive during recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Enoch Pratt Library and public libraries throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,



Mychelle Farmer, MD

Chair, Pratt Library Board of Trustees, Directors

cc: Heidi Daniel – CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Gordon Krabbe-COO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

# **SB477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours a**

Uploaded by: McCray, Cory

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 221  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3165 • 301-858-3165  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165  
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Vote Yes on Senate Bill 477**

**Testimony in support of  
SB477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, Distinguished Senators and my Committee Colleagues:

On behalf of the citizens of Baltimore and the Enoch Pratt Free Library, I respectfully introduce **SB477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding**.

This bill requires an annual appropriation of \$3 million to be used for branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library to extend operating hours and services to enhance accessibility for the convenience of residents served by Enoch Pratt Branches, namely evenings and weekends. This bill also requires a funding commitment from the City of Baltimore:

City of Baltimore's Obligation:

- 25% match annually (\$750,000)
- Mayor and City Council must report annually on the impact of extended hours

This bill is an extension of similar legislation passed in 2016 which authorized the appropriation of \$3 million over the past five years through FY22. As an historical footnote, this legislation dates back to January of 2016 when the Pratt Library made the courageous decision to remain open to the public after normal hours in the wake of the Freddie Gray unrest.

That moment sparked a renewed recognition of the important role that the Pratt Library System plays as a vital resource for the community. Since that time, funding from this legislation has enabled Enoch Pratt Library branches to expand their hours and advance the library's commitment to equity, inclusion, through greater access to library resources, programs, and services.

This means greater access to services such as free internet, educational resources, workforce development assistance, social workers, and the Pratt's Lawyer in the Library program as well as traditional library circulation of books and other reference materials. we know too well that

many citizens lack critical access to affordable internet. Statewide data show that factors such as race, income, and geography create additional barriers to access. I represent neighborhoods in Baltimore with some of the lowest household incomes, yet despite this fact, since the Pratt extended their hours four years ago, Enoch Pratt has seen a significant increase in utilization which you will hear more about during the Pratt's CEO Heidi Daniel's testimony.

And on a personal note, as the father of 4-school age children who are at home on-line for remote classes, access to the internet is critical for everyone.

**This bill has the support of the entire Baltimore City Senate Delegation who have also co-sponsored and provided a letter of support.**

I also want to acknowledge that I recently had the honor of joining two of our B&T Committee Members, *Senators Nancy King* and *Sarah Elfresth* on a Legislative Panel hosted by the ***Maryland Library Association***, during which both were recognized for their leadership and strong advocacy on behalf of Libraries across Maryland, including the Pratt Library which serves as the designated **State Library Resource Center**.

**I cannot stress enough the importance of this bill and what it means to the citizens of Baltimore especially now when institutions like The Enoch Pratt Free Library are stepping up to provide greater services during this time of COVID relief.**

I respectfully urge your support and a favorable committee report on SB477.

Respectfully submitted,



Cory V. McCray  
State Senator

**SB477 - BT - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: FAV



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 477**

February 4, 2021

**TO:** Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee  
**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 477 – Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 477.

Senate Bill 477 would remove the sunset on the mandate of an additional \$3 million annually from the State to fund additional operating hours for the Enoch Pratt Free Library (Pratt). The City would continue to provide a 25% match – \$750,000 – in funding to further support the increased hours of operation.

The Pratt is an invaluable fixture in our City. SB 477 is pertinent to ensuring that our students and residents continue to have increased access to the vital resources and services the library system provides. We hope that the library can build on the growth afforded to them with the extension of this funding by ensuring that all branches can operate under additional hours with a commitment to equity and inclusion for the benefit of all communities across the City.

Even during the pandemic, the Pratt has made great strides to provide programming and resources for our communities. Without the mandated funding, the library would be forced to reduce services and lay off workers at a time when the constituents of this City need library access the most. Our communities would lose a level of access that they have come to rely on. Ensuring equitable access to library resources and services, particularly in poor and underserved communities, is a top priority for this Administration.

Accordingly, the BCA requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 477.

*Annapolis – phone: 410.269.0207 • fax: 410.269.6785  
Baltimore – phone: 410.396.3497 • fax: 410.396.5136  
<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*

**SB 477 Enoch Pratt Library (McCray) B&T 2.3.21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO





# Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET  
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN  
*Governor*

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
*Lieutenant Governor*

DAVID R. BRINKLEY  
*Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

## **SENATE BILL 477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding (McCray)**

### **STATEMENT OF INFORMATION**

**DATE: February 3, 2021**

**COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation**

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** SB 477 makes permanent the \$3 million annual mandated appropriation to support the additional operating hours for all branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

**EXPLANATION:** The Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the \$3 million ongoing mandated appropriation.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020. Mandated appropriations have a direct impact on constructing a structurally balanced budget. Flexibility in allocating available funds is paramount, particularly when the aggregate of increased spending mandates is unsustainable.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is a significant budgetary vulnerability, making the addition of new, permanent funding mandates premature.

The highest priority of the Administration is to work with the 2021 General Assembly in enacting the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496/HB 612 RELIEF Act). The RELIEF Act provides \$1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senate amendments add \$520 million in additional relief.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at  
(410) 260-6371 or [barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov](mailto:barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov)**