



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

SB 56

January 25, 2022

TO: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: **Senate/House Bill 56 Program Open Space - Local Plans and Programs - General Assembly Approval**

POSITION: Oppose

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** Senate Bill 56.

SB 56 requires approval through legislation enacted by the General Assembly before any revised local land preservation and recreation plan under Program Open Space takes effect.

Every year Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRP) undergoes an exhaustive application process to determine agency priorities and use of Program Open Space (POS) funding. Each Capital budget year we present our list of priorities to the elected officials within the various districts that make up the Baltimore City State Delegation. Our list of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) begins with an internal discussion that provides an equity score for each project. The CIP is then presented to the Baltimore City Planning Commission, Mayor's Office, and is then approved by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates. Upon approval, we then submit the CIP Projects requesting POS funding to the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Program Open Space review process, which is ultimately approved by the State Board of Public Works.

To add an additional application layer elongates the thorough and proven approval process already in place.

We respectfully request an **unfavorable** report on Senate Bill 56.

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