



March 6, 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 874, which would establish Community Safety Works as an ongoing program within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Established as a budget initiative within the Department, Community Safety Works has already provided valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments through targeted investments in crime prevention that impact community safety.

We recently received Community Safety Works Facility Improvement Grant to fund the purchase and installation of security cameras at one of our Head Start sites near Patterson Park in Baltimore City. In the Patterson Park neighborhood, both overall violent crime and property crime increased so far in 2022 as compared to 2021, with violent crimes up 11% and property crimes up 19%. With the security cameras, we can deter crime and provide children with a safe environment where they can feel comfortable and deeply engage in the educational services being provided. It will also benefit the families served by promoting safety for all who live in the community. We have additional Head Start sites in Baltimore City, as well as other program sites in Baltimore City and County, that are in high crime areas and would greatly benefit from funding from the Community Safety Works program if it were established.

Again, this is to request a favorable report on SB874 to continue this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Schiavone', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Schiavone  
President and CEO  
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore