



March 3, 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI) would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 874, which would establish Community Safety Works (CWS) as an ongoing program within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

Established as a budget initiative within the Department, CSW has already provided valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments through targeted investments in crime prevention that impact community safety. In fact, EBDI is proud and excited to share that at the end of 2022, our organization was awarded CSW funding for critical public safety issues in our community!

This grant will be used to benefit the residents and business owners in the Eager Park neighborhood, which is an 88-acre community located in historic East Baltimore and just north of the Johns Hopkins Medical campus. Since inception, EBDI has made tremendous strides to transform this once 70% vacant area into a safe, vibrant, mixed-use community. Since 2012, Frontline Management Services, a local minority-owned business located within our project area, has provided clean, green and safe services to the neighborhood and has worked closely with residents, community groups, businesses, Johns Hopkins and other stakeholders to do so. Frontline's efforts to reduce crime during this time is noticeable.

However, with new residential housing and commercial properties to be built, we need to prepare for the development's growth and expansion of Frontline's services and increase community involvement in public safety efforts as more residents and business owners are added. Therefore, this grant will enable our community to bolster its security efforts by adding new two-way radios for Frontline's security associates, implementing a mass notification system, and starting a community-based security watch program and other community-led initiatives. These features are critical to enhancing community safety efforts in Eager Park.

We anticipate that this funding will act as a catalyst for future funding and related opportunities we intend to seek to support critical public safety efforts in our project area. We are eager to see how other communities can use CSW funding as a resource moving forward.

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl Washington
President & CEO