



March 3, 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The City of Westminster 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.

The City of Westminster is currently using funding from Community Safety Works to enhance the overall safety of Downtown Westminster using a holistic approach and employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. The City just recently purchased and installed four security cameras on West Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue which are close to going live. These will expand our current program to include areas that see a great deal of pedestrian traffic activity during busier weekend late-nights around the commercial district. Westminster is fortunate to have McDaniel College within walking distance to Downtown Westminster. This grant is making it possible for the city to make necessary crosswalk improvements to the rumble strips, lighting, thermoplastic materials, etc. that will directly impact this community and encourage the safe access for students and visitors to our commercial district. Students have been hesitant to walk downtown, especially along Pennsylvania Ave. an area with a higher-than-average rates of crime activity within the city. Part of these improvements allow the city to add a McDaniel emblem on the crosswalks which will be a visible reminder to the public of the support we have for the school in our community. Westminster has a lot of the necessary Carroll County human services located within our district, which has given rise to the amount of homeless population about the city. The Community Safety Works grant is allowing us to give options to the homeless population by way of hotel night staying when necessary. We value safety, partnerships and bettering our downtown district in a wholistic way. The Community Safety Works grant funding awarded this year will be applied to continuing our improvements to the many crosswalks located in Downtown Westminster, to continuing to install safety cameras along Pennsylvania Avenue.

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 cursive script that reads "Melissa D. Thorn".

Melissa D. Thorn  
Economic Development Coordinator  
[mthorn@westminstermd.gov](mailto:mthorn@westminstermd.gov)