



DRUID HEIGHTS
Community Development Corporation

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation

2140 McCulloh Street Baltimore, Maryland 21217

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (Druid Heights CDC) would like to express our strong support for **Senate Bill 874**, which would establish Community Safety Works (CSW) 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.

Druid Heights CDC is a community-based, 501 (c)(3) non-profit community development corporation. DHCDC is located in zip code 21217 in Baltimore City, within Census Tract 1403 a designated Urban Renewal Area. Our mission is to cause, encourage and promote community self-empowerment, through the development of economic, educational, employment, and affordable housing opportunities. Druid Heights CDC serves residents and community members by providing affordable housing, outreach efforts and supportive services.

With the CSW funding Druid Heights CDC will be able to continue our Clean and Green Initiative which will assist with lighting, security and cleaning of the physical environment of the key corridors in the community as evidence of the economical and social destruction. The community has experienced many inequities within the neighborhoods that have dominant low to moderate income residents. This funding is critical to assist with the elimination of blight and reduce the crime in the community. In addition, the funding will assist with creating sustainable green space projects that allow for residents to live in a clean neighborhood; where they can sit and enjoy beauty around them.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

JohnDre Jennings
JohnDre Jennings
Executive Director