

Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401
March 6, 2023
Re: SB 874

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association, I am writing this testimony in favor of SB 874 codifying the existing Community Safety Works Grant Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants for eligible projects that improve the quality of life within and economic potential of Maryland communities by making targeted investments in crime prevention strategies.

Public safety is a significant and ever-increasing challenge in Baltimore City. Residents are afraid to walk the streets of the neighborhoods where they live. Local businesses are leaving the city because it is hard to survive in an area where people don't feel safe.

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association is very appreciative of the DHCD Community Safety Works Grant Program. We see it as progress in the right direction. In FY22 and FY23, we received funding under these grants for installation of cameras, license plate readers, lighting, vehicle/pedestrian control devices and placemaking. We recently started work on the projects and feel confident that they will result in increased safety and quality of life for residents, local businesses, and visitors to our community.

We respectfully ask our legislators and lawmakers to pass SB 874. There is so much more we can do in the name of public safety!

Sincerely,

elizabeth whitmer

Elizabeth Whitmer
President
Federal Hill Neighborhood Association