



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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Islamic Society of Baltimore (ISB) 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 impacts community safety.

Our organization is situated in the residential neighborhood of Windsor Mills and Catonsville with a weekly foot traffic of 4000+ people. Given our faith-based mission and the social services that we provide simultaneously has put the organization at risk for a range of criminal activities—break ins, verbal threats, suspicious visitors etc. As ISB continues to physically improve the environmental quality by planting new trees, many areas of the campus have hiding spots that cannot be viewed by the CCTV's. Last year, we were able to install street lighting in those areas to improve the visibility of the growing campus with the funding support from The Community Safety Works Grant.

This funding is crucial to improving the physical safety of the organizations that are gathering places of the local community. This is to request a favorable report on SB874 to continue this valuable program that helped ISB in improving our safety and has the potential to enhance safety of so many other organizations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Madiha Patel
Head of Grants