



Chizuk Amuno

CONGREGATION & SCHOOLS



March 6, 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Chizuk Amuno Congregation & Schools 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 impact community safety.

As a prominent institution of faith and a center of Jewish learning and life in the greater Baltimore community, Chizuk Amuno Congregation & Schools is known as a location where thousands of children, students, and adults gather for regularly scheduled religious services, schools, communal events, observances, memorials, and programs. With our large community and with a location directly off of Baltimore Beltway, 695, we provide a target of easy access for perpetrators of hate crimes. Year over year, we have seen an increase of antisemitic incidents throughout the Jewish Community locally here in Baltimore. We are three months into 2023 and our community has already been witness to antisemitic vandalism at John Hopkins University's Hillel Dorm, antisemitic flyers being distributed in nearby communities, and heightened awareness of the National Day of Hate.

The Community Safety Works Grants and future funding would help assist us in being able to continue to stay vigilant to potential violence and/or crimes in our community. Funding would be used multifaceted: to put in place more secure entrances and exits in our aging building, continue to upgrade and enhance our surveillance systems & cameras, and help offset our annual cost of armed security guards on premise.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Jacobs, M.P.A
Director of Strategic Operations & Community Fundraising
Chizuk Amuno Congregation & Schools