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TOWSON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

March 1, 2023

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Towson Chamber of Commerce 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.

I am sad to say, that Towson have had an uptick in violent crime in February 2023. Four egregious incidents occurred in a three week period. That is unheard of in our community.

The good news is, due to a state safety grant we received, we were able to install surveillance cameras in over fifty properties in 2022. Over 65% of our businesses already had cameras. Two of the individuals that committed the egregious crimes have already been caught. The cameras were instrumental in helping to solving those crimes. Those individuals remain in jail. We are confident that our police and detectives will close the other two cases other shortly.

Our community works very closely with our local officials, our police department and the states attorney's office to keep Towson a great place for people to live, work, go to school and visit. Safety programs are instrumental in helping us to achieve that goal.

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

Sincerely,


Nancy Hafford
Executive Director

*Mission Statement: The Towson Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Promotes the Business Environment in Towson*