



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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Fairmount Heights CDC 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.

Crime and illegal activities are the first considerations one would have upon decision to reside, visit or conduct business within a designated area. The town of Fairmount Heights has been underserved and underutilized even by its own community members due to the high level of abandoned and inadequate maintenance of its landscapes, streetscaped in addition to the incline of vacant and abandoned properties. The high rate of abandoned properties gives opportunities for invasion. Unfortunately, many of times it's our youth hanging in locations which they have knowledge is under the radar. Alleys are often neglected and sometimes have uneven pavement, discarded items, and dark places for potential crime. While alleys are invaluable for giving service access, additional uses such as retail, cafes, arts venues, and small industry will ensure that alleys are cared for and looked after for a more beautiful and safer

FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY  
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community. The lack of basic maintenance and landscape care in the community is an eye soar for the community and the businesses within the town.

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

Sincerely,

*Renita Flood-Bennett*

Renita Flood-Bennett

Director