



**WASHINGTON COUNTY  
FREE LIBRARY**

*Where People & Possibilities Meet*

March 1, 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The Washington County Free Library would like to express its 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.

The Library received \$23,500 to help fund replacement cameras in our downtown Hagerstown branch library. The original cameras were installed in 2013 and were in great need of an upgrade. The cameras assist our security staff and local law enforcement in keeping library users and staff safe while at the Fletcher Library and the surrounding area. Public perception of downtown Hagerstown is that it is unsafe. The cameras allow us to track problematic behavior and provide consequences for those not adhering to the library's behavior code. The new cameras are on order and will be installed within the next two months. We are very grateful for this program and encourage its continuation.

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Connell  
Director of Public Services