

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Southeast Community Development Corporation (Southeast 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.

Improving safety is critical to our goal of increasing homeownership, retaining and attracting small businesses and encouraging residents and visitors to shop our commercial districts to promote a vibrant local economy. Community Safety Works has supported Southeast CDC's efforts to improve safety by funding a range of interventions that meet the unique needs of neighborhoods. Southeast CDC has received two awards—one for cameras in the Highlandtown Main Street district and a second for cleaning streets and alleys and removing blight in the Ellwood Park neighborhood. In the future, we hope to apply for placemaking improvements around the Lombard Street commercial district and traffic calming and pedestrian improvements around our Community Schools.

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

Sincerely,

Kari Snyder

Executive Director

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