

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The Town of Oakland, Maryland 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 can firsthand speak to the positive effect of this initiative. Many consider Oakland to be a great small town to live, work, and raise children; the unfortunate reality is it is an area battling the opioid epidemic. While our area attempts to form a positive response to this epidemic, there is a close relationship between drug abuse and subsequent crime. The need to deter these crimes to protect residents, businesses, and visitors to our area is imperative and the added surveillance that we benefitted from by receiving this grant, was integral in the assistance of deterring crime as well as providing an additional sense of security to our residents, businesses, and visitors. We are very appreciative of the grant received; however, there is still more that we can do to combat our community's crime issues.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole McCullough
Oakland Business Coordinator and Mainstreet Manager.