



City of Cambridge

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The City of Cambridge 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.

Over the last few years, the City of Cambridge has experienced an increase in gang activity and violent crime. Some of the most significant increases have come in the form of gun violence and homicides. This year we were approved for funding through this program and have several initiatives planned to help improve community safety. The city will clean up and provide lighting to an overgrown community footpath. This will help increase visibility and make people safer as they use the path. We will also improve the lighting in the downtown business district so that people who come to visit our community may feel safer. The city will also be adding to our security camera system. This system has already been instrumental in solving numerous violent crimes. The hope is that expanding it will make it even more useful in improving community

safety. We also plan to address a pedestrian safety issue in one of our more congested traffic areas.

These are only a few issues that we as a community need to address. Continued support from programs like this makes these initiatives possible and allows smaller communities to improve the safety and wellbeing of their citizens.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Rideout", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Rideout
Mayor