

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 643

Bill Title: Housing – Community Development Program Act - Funding

Hearing Date: March 8, 2023, Budget and Taxation

Greetings, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Committee

It is with great honor that I present to you Senate Bill 643. SB643 creates a permanent source of funding for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The fund is essential for providing affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, small business development and more. Senate Bill 643 requires the comptroller to distribute \$5.0 million annually to the State's unclaimed property fund to the Community Development Program Fund within the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for community development projects and community development organizations around the state. It is imperative that we provide a sense of security to the members of our community that work tirelessly to make a difference. Providing financial assistance to community-based organizations aids them with paying staff in a field that can be tedious to

fundraise. Our programs struggle with being understaffed and it is important to prevent this from being a consistent problem.

Organizations need a permanent solution to temporary occurrences that we have the ability to solve. It is within the best interest of our community to support the businesses that make our environment better. With gratitude, I respectfully request your support in approving Senate Bill 643.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke.

Cory V. McCray
State Senator