



Monday, March 6 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Cheder Chabad 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.

Unfortunately, crime is a big concern for residents in Northwest Baltimore. Most troubling, is the amount of crime perpetrated by teenagers and young adults. There are very few athletic venues and programs in our immediate area to serve the underprivileged. As a result, local youths and young adults lack opportunities to be involved in healthy and meaningful after-hours and summer activities. This can lead them to turning to unhealthy and self-destructive lifestyles and behaviors, often leading to a path of crime.

Cheder Chabad is an established not for profit 501C3 childcare center, school, and community organization. Over 50% of our students are eligible for the Free and Reduced School Meal Program, coming from homes with challenging financial means.

Cheder Chabad is requesting funding for the proposed gymnastic facilities to provide healthful physical activities and swimming for close to 400 Baltimore children attending Cheder Chabad school and the broader local community. Regularly scheduled programs of physical exercise and swimming in the proposed gym and pool, (planned and supervised by qualified professional athletic staff) will contribute to the health and well-being of the children and boost their self-esteem. The facilities will also have an after-hours program, during evenings, weekends, and summers serving young neighborhood members, providing them opportunities to engage in healthful activities, in a supervised setting. This can directly affect the life choices these young adults will make and result in lower crime rate and a safer community.

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

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Avrohom Wolowik  
*Chief Operating Officer*