

## **Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis**

**Board of Commissioners** 

Jacquelyn V. Wells, Chairman Andre Atkins, Vice-Chairman Sandra D. Chapman, Secretary Philip Gibbs, Treasurer Kimberlee Cornett, Commissioner Craig Coates, Commissioner Arthur Edwards, Jr, Commissioner Executive Director/CEO Melissa Maddox-Evans

Date: January 27, 2023

Maryland General Assembly 2023 Environment and Transportation Committee

Subject: Proposed Legislation – HB 60 - Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund – Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2023)

Position: Favorable As Amended

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis' (HACA) perspective and comment on a bill above that you are considering in the upcoming legislative session. It is our understanding that the bill as originally drafted would benefit only one housing authority entity, not including HACA. Our entity is currently redeveloping its public housing stock for over 1100 families in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

We ask that you remove the clause below that gives preference to funding non-Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) development projects, as it limits use by other public housing authorities that could also benefit from the funds.

"IN ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE 21 FUNDING FOR PROJECTS THAT: 22 (1) DO NOT USE LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT EQUITY OR 23 TAX-EXEMPT VOLUME CAP; AND"

As you are aware, LIHTC funding is a crucial development resource for agencies that do not have access to large sources of capital. Please amend the bill to remove the clause above as to not unduly restrict other housing authorities' access to such funds. We are favorable as amended for HB 60.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Yelisa Maddox-Evans

Melissa Maddox-Evans, ED/CEO

The Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis will provide reasonable accommodations upon request.

