

SB331 Committee Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Antonio Hayes

Position: FAV

ANTONIO HAYES
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Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 331: WNADA, Baltimore City - West North Avenue Development Authority - Membership and Procurement

February 21, 2023

Chair Griffith and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The West North Avenue area of Baltimore City is in between two institutions of higher education, Coppin State University and the Maryland Institute College of Art, and in 2021 was understood to have great potential for economic development. SB783 passed that year, creating the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) for the purpose of revitalizing the neighborhood and investing in economic development.

In 2022, the WNADA appointed an Executive Director and has worked with more than 20 community and neighborhood organizations to develop a comprehensive plan for West North Avenue to be presented to the assembly on October 1st of this year. They have worked with partners around Baltimore to identify five priority zones for economic development in the area. They have secured \$300,000 in funding for projects with more grant funding pending.

Senate Bill 331 seeks to add the Maryland Secretary of Commerce and the Executive Director of Maryland Economic Development Corporation to the WNADA to ensure smooth acquisition and use of resources. The bill also exempts the WNADA from division 2 of the Maryland Procurement Law to allow the Authority to act with less bureaucratic burden in contracting for professional services and excel the development with parity to that which has occurred in East Baltimore.

As such, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 331.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD

Testimony to Maryland General Assembly_SB0331_2023

Uploaded by: Chad Williams

Position: FAV

Testimony to Maryland General Assembly

Finance Committee

Chair Senator Melony Griffith

Vice Chair Senator Katherine Klausmeier

Bill Hearing – SB0331

East Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Chad Williams, Executive Director

West North Avenue Development Authority

Good morning, Madame Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and other members of the Committee. I am Chad Williams, Executive Director of the West North Avenue Development Authority.

Today, I respectfully ask for support of Senate Bill 331 titled Baltimore City – West North Avenue Development Authority – Membership and Procurement. As stated in the Fiscal and Policy Note, this emergency bill alters the membership of the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) and generally exempts WNADA from State procurement law. WNADA will still be subject to written policy and procurement requirements for exempt units and the State’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program.

Generally, each unit with an exemption from any provision of Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article a unit must have written policies and procedures. The written policies and procedures must include the types of procurement exempted from Division II, plus the methods for such procurements, and their advertising requirements, procurement goals (including MBE participation), and their approval process. Units that are governed by their own board, commission, council, or authority must submit their policies and procedures to their board, commission, council, or authority for approval.

To ensure historical acceptable compliance with this requirement the West North Avenue Development Authority will adopt similar aligned written procurement policies and procedures currently used by the Maryland Stadium Authority. A discussion for approval of these written policies and procedures will occur at the next regular scheduled Authority meeting after this Bill has become law.

In an effort to strengthen the State and local collaborative intent of the General Assembly when it established the Authority, the inclusion of the Maryland Secretary of Commerce and Executive Director of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation, or their designee, as members of the Authority will be necessary to support, prioritize, and direct eligible funding and financing resources within their entities to supplement the mission of the Authority to “initiate” and “fund” development activities on W North Ave.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak with you regarding how we can work together to improve the implementation of your State Authority focused on equitable economic, housing, transportation, and neighborhood development with parity in Baltimore City.

Coppin State Testimony in Support of SB 331.pdf

Uploaded by: Dr. Anthony Jenkins

Position: FAV

Coppin State University
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 331
Chair: Senator Melony Griffith
February 20, 2023

Dear Chairwoman, Griffith, and members of the committee:

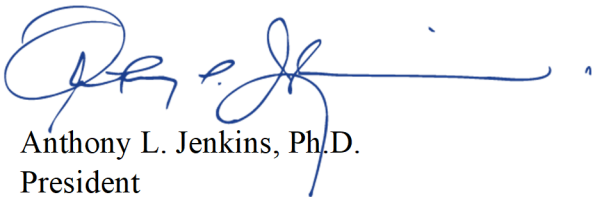
On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Coppin State University, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 331.

Coppin State University holds the distinct designation of being an anchor institution. As such, we have a responsibility and play a crucial role in lifting the community of West Baltimore. Since 1900 we have served as a catalyst for creating upward and economic mobility for our students and the surrounding community.

Currently, I serve as chair of the West North Avenue Development Authority. The Authority was created in 2021 for the purpose of revitalizing the neighborhood and investing in economic development. Since then, the WNADA has appointed an Executive Director and worked with numerous community and neighborhood organizations to develop a comprehensive revitalization plan for West Baltimore. They have worked with partners around Baltimore to secure over \$300,000 in funding as well as identify five priority zones for economic development in the area.

Senate Bill 331 seeks to add to WNADA authority, the Maryland Secretary of Commerce, and the Executive Director of Maryland Economic Development Corporation to ensure the smooth acquisition of resources. In addition, the legislation exempts the WNADA from division 2 of the Maryland Procurement Law to allow the Authority to act with less bureaucratic burden in contracting for professional services and excel in the development with parity to that which has occurred in East Baltimore. Therefore, I am requesting your consideration and favorable support to expand the membership of the WNADA and exempt them from contracting issues that might slow the progress of economic development in the area.

Best regards,



Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
President