

CottageCity-supportSenateBill69602-03-2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FAV



TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY

3820 – 40th Avenue
Cottage City, Maryland 20722
(301) 779-2161 • Fax (301) 779-3525

March 2, 2023

State Senator Melanie Griffith
Chair – Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Bldg.
11 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Griffith,

I am writing as Commissioner Chair for the Town of Cottage City to express support for Senate Bill 696 which will establish the Gateway Arts Development Authority in Prince George's County.

The establishment of the Gateway Arts Development Authority will facilitate the creation of a neighborhood revitalization plan in coordination with certain residents. As part of the target area, Cottage city will receive much-needed support to improve our community.

This legislation calls for the creation of a comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy which will provide a cohesiveness in ideas and effort amongst the targeted areas, a boost to our economic development and support revitalization to our community. The Town of Cottage City fully supports SB696 and look forward to the passing of this new legislation.

Sincerely,

Wanda Wheatley
Commissioner Chair

Cc: Senator Malcolm Augustine

Letter of Support Senate Bill 696.pdf

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Position: FAV



March 3, 2023

The Honorable Senator Malcolm Augustine
214 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 696

Dear Senator Augustin:

The Town of Brentwood, Mayor, and Council is writing to express our support for Senate Bill 696 to establish a *Gateway Arts Development Authority* in Prince George's County.

The Town of Brentwood has already proven itself a leader in the area by partnering with neighboring municipalities. This bill will ensure improved communication and collaboration and serves to strengthen our ability to promote and uplift our residents and the arts.

The Town Council would like the following amendments to be considered:

- Increased representation for residents of communities impacted by the target area to ensure diversity
- The addition of artists and/or stakeholder organizations to the authority
- A strategic plan to ensure that *Gateway Arts Development Authority* includes equitable development

Best Regards,

Mayor and Council, Brentwood, MD

Town Hall | 4300 39th Place | Brentwood, Maryland 20722 (301) 927-3344 | info@brentwoodmd.gov



Letter of Support_SB696_Town of Bladensburg.pdf

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FAV

Town of Bladensburg

Council Members

Ward I

Trina Brown

Jocelyn Route



Mayor

Takisha James

Council Members

Ward I

Marilyn Blount

Carrol McBryde

March 6, 2023

Chair Melony G. Griffith
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

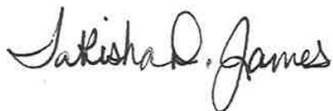
Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of the Bladensburg Town Council in favor of Senate Bill 696 sponsored by Senator Malcolm Augustine. We strongly wish to convey our agreement with the goal of this bill “FOR the purpose of establishing the Gateway Arts Development Authority in Prince George’s County to support and develop a certain neighborhood revitalization plan in coordination with certain residents; and generally relating to the Gateway Arts Development Authority.”

The Town Council strongly supports the establishment of a Gateway Arts Development Authority to enable Bladensburg, Brentwood, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Mount Rainier, and North Brentwood to develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan to target our community needs. This legislation will go a long way in helping us establish affordable housing, economic development (inclusive of job opportunities) and affordable transportation solutions for our residents, business owners and other community stakeholders.

SB 696 is critical as it will allow our communities to leverage funding sources and collaborative partnerships to elevate our communities which are critical gateways to Prince George’s County.

Sincerely,

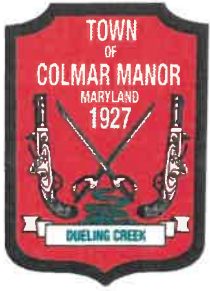


Mayor Takisha D. James

Mayor Casanas Support Letter SB 696.pdf

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FAV



TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR

March 3, 2023

Mayor Monica Casañas

Town Council

Maliek Harding, Ward 1
Irina Hobbs, Ward 2
Keith Brooks, Ward 3
Melinda Mendoza, Ward 4

Clerk-Treasurer

Dan Baden

Town Administrator

Greg Holcomb

Chief of Police

Tracy Stone

Public Works Supervisor

Mike Goroum

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB 696/ HB 827 which creates the Gateway Arts Development Authority.

The town slogan of Colmar Manor is “the little town that can,” and for nearly 100 years as a town, we have weathered economic downturns, demographic shifts in our community, and flooding disasters. Our town is resolute and works hard to provide police service, code enforcement, public works, recreational programming, and general government administration. However, this is all at a cost. In order to provide these services, we have placed a high burden on the taxpayers of our community with one of the highest tax rates in Prince George’s County and within the 10th highest in Maryland.

Our already high taxes combined with the many expectations placed on municipal government by our residents and the state and federal government place financial burdens on local government. This makes developing comprehensive plans, working towards affordable housing solutions, driving economic development, or creating transportation plans to curb traffic and increase pedestrian access and safety difficult.

The passage of the Gateway Arts Development Authority, with the inclusion of the Town of Colmar Manor, will greatly assist our community and our neighboring communities of Bladensburg, Mount Ranier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, and Cottage City.

These communities represent underserved communities of color, a diverse immigrant population, and some of the oldest communities in Prince George’s County. The Gateway Arts Development Authority would provide us with tools to do a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan. These types of plans will assist in creating cohesiveness between our six communities to benefit the residents, housing, economic development, neighborhoods, and transportation.

Our region suffers from aging infrastructure, a lack of cohesive planning, and slow economic development. A development authority is a catalyst our community and neighbors need to contribute to the demands of a 21st-century workforce and join in the region’s burgeoning economic and physical development.

I ask you all to support SB 696/ HB 827 which creates the Gateway Arts Development Authority to help create prosperity for Colmar Manor and our five neighboring communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Monica Casanas

“The Little Town that Can”

3701 Lawrence St, Colmar Manor, MD 20722

P (301) 277-4920 | F (301)699-5245 | www.colmarmanor.org

SB696 support North Brentwood (002).pdf

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FAV



TOWN OF NORTH BRENTWOOD

P.O. Box 196

North Brentwood, Maryland 20722

Office: (301) 699-9699 • Fax: (301) 699-1824

March 2, 2023

Senator Augustine, President Pro Tem
District 47
James Senate Office Building, Room 214
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of SB -696

Dear Senator Augustine;

As North Brentwood is part of the Gateway Arts District and North Brentwood has not really benefitted in uplifting of the Rhode Island Avenue corridor, there is a need for intervention and assistance.

This is to inform you that the Town of North Brentwood is in support Senate Bill 696. This bill recognizes the need for a strategic plan for the communities.

It is true that the Gateway to Maryland from the District of Columbia is off Bladensburg Road and Rhode Island Avenue, which also includes other towns. These communities are in need of shrewd and well thought out planning to enhance those areas, and to bring new innovative ideas and financial resources.

I fully support the initiative and find it essential to give that boost to those areas.

Respectfully,

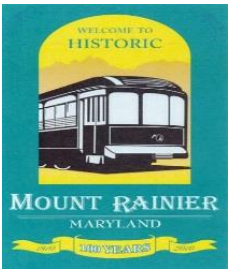
Petrella Robinson
Mayor

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB696

Prince Georges

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FAV



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB696

Prince Georges County – Gateways Arts Development Authority – Established

To: Honorable Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier
Date: Friday, March 03, 2023

As Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier I have always supported the Arts and Development of Mount Rainier and surrounding communities without changing the character and values of our City. For far too long economic development hasn't made it to our end of Maryland, impacting our City and region in a negative way. The ability to establish the Gateway Arts Development Authority would give our area the leadership, vision, support to develop and revitalize the Gateway to Maryland. We need to grow without pushing out those that have invested in our cities and towns and improve spaces to also welcome new development in the area. That is why we ask for a **FAVORABLE Support for the establishment of the Gateways Arts Development Authority.**

The City of Mount Rainier is a thriving diverse community of over eight-thousand residents. The highest density populated city per square foot in Maryland. Our city is enriched by diversity and the Arts and being part of an Arts District has empowered our communities. As our cities and towns continue to thrive, several residents, businesses and artists have been priced out of the community taking with them needed talents to our area and State. Mount Rainier is a city that strongly believes in Economic Development and revitalization are important therefore we are one of the few cities our size in the state to hire an Economic Development Director to help revitalize our city with the very, very limited funding we have move towards the right direction and seen the impacts this has created but we cannot do this alone as we are working with many decades of no development in our City and region and are only as strong if the area is economically strong and thriving which also bring needed job to communities, deter crime created by empty storefronts and decade building and empowered the revitalization needed as well as keep Marylanders dollars in Maryland instead of going to DC. By re/creating spaces where residents walk, bike and the heavy traffic we have into our city from and to DC to stop and invest their money in our community and State bringing also outside dollars into our cities.

Establishing The Gateway Arts Development Authority would help us revitalize our cities and towns and by doing so strengthen the Gateway to Maryland and our economic future.

The City of Mount Rainier strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill SB696.

please don't hesitate to contact me MayorBenitez@MountRainierMD.org should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Celina Benitez

Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier, Maryland
First Latina Mayor of The City of Mount Rainier
First Latina Mayor of a City in the State of Maryland