

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