



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

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