



DRUID HEIGHTS
Community Development Corporation

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation

2140 McCulloh Street Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Testimony - Bill Hearing – HB627

March 1, 2023

Chair, Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair, Bonnie Cullison with Health and Government Operations Committee:

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation urges your support of HB627 titled Baltimore City – West North Avenue Development Authority – Membership and Procurement. This proposed 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 forexempt units and the State’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program.

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) is a community-based, 501 (c)(3) non-profit community development corporation. DHCDC is in zip code 21217 in Baltimore City, within Census Tract 1403 a designated Urban Renewal Area. Our mission is to cause, encourage and promote community self-empowerment, through the development of economic, educational, employment, and affordable housing opportunities.

As a community-based board member I am able to ensure proper oversight and community representation in the procurement process from a nonprofit experience in West Baltimore. The Secretary of Commerce and Executive Director of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation are essential as additional members on the Board.

Generally, each unit with an exemption from any provision of Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article 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 becomes law.

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation urges your support HB627 titled Baltimore City – West North Avenue Development Authority – Membership and Procurement

JohnDre Jennings, Executive Director