

Michael C. O'Connor
Mayor



Gayon M. Sampson
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February 24, 2023

Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

Re: HB640 – City of Frederick – Assignment of Offenders to Road Work - Repeal

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for HB640 which will repeal the assignment of offenders to road work in Frederick County or The City of Frederick.

This bill will rescind an archaic Jim Crow era provision that requires a District Court judge to assign, if practicable, an offender to public road work duty in Frederick County or the City of Frederick as a penalty for a violation of a municipal law or ordinance of The City of Frederick.

This outdated legislation, which existed to continue the practice of indentured servitude, has not been used by The City of Frederick for many years and does not currently serve a purpose in its current form or represent the values of The City of Frederick. Repealing this legislation continues our endeavors to rid ourselves of past laws and ordinances steeped in racist ideologies.

The passage of this bill has no negative impacts of any services in The City of Frederick. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and I look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor,
Mayor