



**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY OF SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC

CITY CLERK, CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

IN SUPPORT OF HB 348

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE- MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

February 6, 2024

Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and members of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is Sara A. Green and I serve as the City Clerk for the City of Laurel. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for House Bill 348.

The Maryland Certified Public Manager® Program provided by the Schaefer Center that I was fortunate to attend was an extraordinary experience for me. The Program, led by Dr. Ann Cotten, Executive Director Schaefer Center for Public Policy, College of Public Affairs at the University of Baltimore provided me with the next level of education regarding all aspects of public management that has complimented my 22+ years of experience working for the City of Laurel. The instructors of the Program, the curriculum, assignments and material provided were excellent. Being in a program with other government officials of all backgrounds who work in State, County and Municipal government in the State of Maryland was perfect because we all shared our own knowledge and experience, and we could all relate to and understand one another. The knowledge that I gained from the Program has provided me with more opportunities to further my career in government. I was very fortunate and grateful that I was able to attend classes at no cost to my municipality. That made convincing my Mayor to allow me to attend that much easier. How can you argue with free, right?!

NextGen Leaders and the internships that they offer, play an integral part in assisting local governments, especially small municipalities, overcome the challenges in attracting young people to work in public service. Internships like NextGen Leaders provide local governments with a way to highlight the advantages and the importance of having experience in working in public service. Providing funding for the Schaefer Center to offer these opportunities is a win-win for both the student and the local government – students can learn where their strengths are and areas that are a good fit and the local governments get assistance in creating programs, supporting existing programs and seeing the world through the eyes of young college students and their communities. Internships such as these fill a much-needed role in the development of programs and supporting local governments.

HB 348 seeks to make the Schaefer Center's one-time funding permanent. Permanency will ensure that municipalities like Laurel will be able to secure high quality training from an accredited program for their managers and have the opportunity to expose a NextGen intern to a potential career in municipal government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I urge the committee's favorable report of HB 348.