



## Town of Forest Heights

588 ARAPASO DRIVE  
FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745-1998  
(301) 839-1838  
Fax (301) 839-9236

Tray Harrington Lilly  
Mayor

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jamilah McDonald – Ward I  
Shanese Little – Ward I  
Theresa Brownson – Ward II  
Johnathon Kennedy II – Ward II  
Tanya Hines – Ward III  
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January 18, 2024

SB 83 – Video Lottery Terminals – Distribution of Local Impact Grants – Town of Forest Heights

Good afternoon, Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Theresa Brownson, and I am honored to serve as a Councilmember for the Town of Forest Heights. Today, I want to express our community's resounding support for Senate Bill 83.

Forest Heights, like many communities, has faced its share of challenges, especially in the wake of the recent pandemic. The proposed increase in funding through Senate Bill 83 presents a crucial opportunity for our town to overcome budgetary constraints and contribute significantly to our residents' well-being.

As we consider the potential impacts of introducing a video lottery facility, we are mindful of both the positive and negative consequences. Increased tourism and economic development are promising, but so are the potential challenges related to problem gambling and increased crime. Forest Heights is committed to addressing these challenges through strategic planning and community-focused initiatives.

The additional resources provided by Senate Bill 83 are instrumental in shaping the trajectory of our community. From supporting local businesses to addressing blight and implementing economic development initiatives, this funding empowers Forest Heights to contribute positively to our residents' quality of life.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Town of Forest Heights, I strongly urge this committee to provide a "favorable" report on Senate Bill 83. The passage of this legislation is not just an investment in our town but a commitment to the well-being and prosperity of our community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Theresa Brownson*