

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
Nick J. Mosby, President, Baltimore City
Council



Mayor and City Council

100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

February 15, 2024

**Re: Opposition to SB699 - Cannabis – Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund –
Distribution and Use of Funds for Baltimore City**

Honorable Chair Carter and members of the Baltimore City Senate Delegation:

We write to you to strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 699. On July 17, 2023, we signed into law City Council Bill 23-0353, enacted as Ordinance 23-249, which established the Community Reinvestment and Reparations Commission. This Commission was established in accordance with the Maryland Code – Alcoholic Beverages Subtitle which requires each county to “adopt a law establishing the purpose for which money received from the Fund may be used¹.” Currently, we are in the process of appointing members to the Commission and the City of Baltimore recently received its first funding allocation from the Comptroller of Maryland for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024.

The existing law that established the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund is fair and balanced in the manner in which funding is allocated and allows for each jurisdiction to develop the parameters by which they will allocate and distribute funding. There are existing legislative mandates concerning the eligible uses for the funding as well as reporting requirements for expenditures. Baltimore City was one of the first, if not the first, jurisdiction to establish its local law as required under State law and has been working diligently since that time to appoint members and begin meeting.

We are extremely grateful to the entire Baltimore City Senate Delegation for your commitment to ensuring that the City of Baltimore receives its fair share of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund. As the most significantly affected jurisdiction concerning the total number of cannabis possession charges for the period from July 1, 2002, to January 1, 2023, we have taken our local responsibility seriously in passing the required local legislation and working with community partners to establish the Community Reinvestment and Reparations Commission. We do not want to go back in time and notify dedicated community members that they can no longer participate in the process and that a new body is being established that will determine the distribution of this funding. We also find it concerning that as the jurisdiction most impacted by these previous arrest laws, we are also now going to become the only jurisdiction without any local autonomy concerning establishing law to determine the purpose for which money received from the Fund may be used.

¹ Md. Code, AB § 1-322

For those reasons, we write to you united in asking to vote against SB 699.

In Partnership,



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore



Nick J. Mosby
President, Baltimore City Council



Sharon Green Middleton
Vice President, Baltimore City Council District 6



Zeke Cohen
Councilman, Baltimore City Council District 1



Danielle McCray
Councilwoman, Baltimore City District 2



Ryan Dorsey
Councilman, Baltimore City District 3



Mark Conway
Chairman, Baltimore City District 4



Isaac "Yitzzy" Schleifer
Chairman, Baltimore City District 5



James Torrence
Councilman, Baltimore City District 7



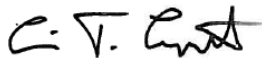
Kristerfer Burnett
Councilman, Baltimore City District 8



John T. Bullock
Chairman, Baltimore City District 9



Phylcia Porter
Councilwoman, Baltimore City District 10



Eric Costello
Chairman, Baltimore City District 11



Robert Stokes
Chairman, Baltimore City District 12



Antonio Glover
Councilman, Baltimore City District 13



Odette Ramos

Councilwoman, Baltimore City District 14