



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0510

March 21, 2024

TO: Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 510 – Business Façade Improvement Program – Eligible Funding Recipients

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 510.

HB 510 expands the pool of eligible recipients for the Department of Housing and Community Development's Business Façade Improvement program. Previously, only a government agency was permitted to receive these funds, which would then be distributed to businesses seeking façade improvements.

Community Development Corporations, Business Improvement Districts, Merchants Associations, and other eligible groups have demonstrated themselves to be good stewards of state funding from other programs in the past. We believe that broadening the pool of eligible applicants will ensure that the façade grant money will be distributed quickly and efficiently by these groups, and that we would likely see a more diverse mix of businesses receiving these funds.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 510.