



Druid Heights Community Development Corporation

DRUID HEIGHTS
Community Development Corporation

2140 McCulloh Street Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Testimony - Bill Hearing – HB1427

March 7, 2024

Dear Chair, Vanessa E. Atterbeary and Members of the Ways & Means Committee:

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation urges your support of HB1427 titled Baltimore City – Economic Development - West North Avenue Development Authority - Alterations. Altering the administration and membership of the West North Avenue Development Authority; specifying the powers and duties of the Authority, subject to certain limitations; exempting the Authority from certain provisions of law; requiring the Authority to take certain actions regarding the finances of the Authority; exempting the Authority from certain taxation or assessments under certain circumstances; establishing the West North Avenue Development Authority Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) is a community-based, 501 (c)(3) non-profit community development corporation. DHCDC is in zip code 21217 in Baltimore City, within Census Tract 1403 a designated Urban Renewal Area. Our mission is to cause, encourage and promote community self-empowerment, through the development of economic, educational, employment, and affordable housing opportunities.

With the continued support of the West North Avenue Development Authority, the West North Ave business corridor is able to receive much needed financial support towards continued revitalization efforts. In addition to supporting the business corridor, WNADA funding has also assisted with our affordable homeownership project - Bakers View Homeownership project (15 new construction townhomes) in the Druid Heights community. This alteration will assist with capital funding to move forward projects such as renovation of the 2200 block of Druid Hill which will include renovation for over fifteen (15) homes in the vacant block. In addition, WNADA will support community development efforts to revitalize West Baltimore, and assist in providing affordable homeownership which enables generational wealth and assists in sustaining the commercial corridor of Pennsylvania and North Ave.

As a community-based board member, I am to ensure proper oversight and community representation in the procurement process from a nonprofit experience in West Baltimore. Druid Heights Community Development Corporation urges your support **HB1427** titled Baltimore City – West North Avenue Development Authority – Membership and Procurement

JohnDre Jennings, Executive Director