

COUNCIL MEMBER

Antonio Glover

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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

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**Testimony of Councilman Antonio Glover
Baltimore City Council, 13th District
In Support of Senate Bill 550
February 14, 2025**

Chairperson and esteemed members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of Senate Bill 550. I am Councilman Antonio Glover, representing the 13th District of Baltimore City, and I stand before you to emphasize the necessity of this legislation in ensuring accountability from nonprofit organizations regarding their property use.

Baltimore City has long been home to numerous nonprofits that provide critical services and serve as cornerstones of our communities. These organizations receive significant tax exemptions based on their commitment to the public good. However, when a nonprofit ceases to use its property for its intended mission for an extended period—three consecutive taxable years, as this bill outlines—it is only fair and just that the property no longer be afforded the same tax-exempt status.

Senate Bill 550 is not an attack on nonprofits but a measure to promote transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of resources in our city. When nonprofit-owned properties sit unused and neglected, they do not contribute to the economic vitality of our neighborhoods. Instead, they can become vacant, deteriorate, and diminish the quality of life for surrounding residents. Meanwhile, taxpayers continue to shoulder the financial burden of city services that benefit these properties without receiving any tax revenue in return.

By allowing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to establish a special tax rate for properties that are no longer being used for nonprofit purposes, we create an incentive for organizations to either reactivate these spaces for their intended mission or return them to productive use. This policy will also help to ensure that our city's tax base is more fairly distributed and that nonprofits remain true to the commitments that granted them tax-exempt privileges in the first place.

As a representative of East Baltimore, I have seen firsthand how underutilized properties—especially those once owned by nonprofits—can hinder community revitalization efforts. This bill provides a reasonable and necessary tool to encourage responsible property management and to hold organizations accountable for the privileges they receive. I urge my colleagues and this committee to support Senate Bill 550. It is a step toward greater fiscal responsibility, neighborhood revitalization, and fairness in Baltimore's property tax system.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Antonio Glover'.

Councilman Antonio Glover
Baltimore City District 13