



**Visionary Venture Partnership, LLC
227 N. Holliday St, 1C
Baltimore, MD 21202
gmcknightsmith.vvp@gmail.com
January 27, 2025**

Testimonial Letter to the State of Maryland Ways & Means Committee
Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairperson

To: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary and Members of the Ways & Means Committee

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways & Means Committee,

As Visionary Venture Partnership, a real estate developer dedicated to equitable development in Baltimore City, we strongly urge your support for the bill titled "Baltimore City Economic Development - West North Avenue Development Authority - Alterations" (HB 0258-WNADA Bill).

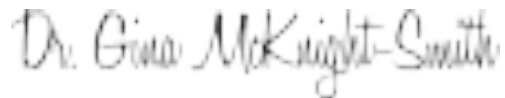
The mission of Visionary Venture Partnership is to invest in real estate ventures for the purpose of maximizing and optimizing resources that inspire and empower individuals to positively transform communities. Our partners have roots in this community. We have grown up there. We have lived there, attended school there, worked there, and have generations of family-owned businesses there. We have a vested interest in this community and believe that the proposed alterations to the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) will significantly enhance its ability to drive positive change in West Baltimore. The bill's provisions for altering the administration and membership of the Authority, along with specifying its powers and duties, will streamline operations and increase effectiveness.

WNADA has already demonstrated its value by providing crucial financial support to revitalize neighborhoods along the West North Avenue corridor. Furthermore, it has assisted with vital affordable housing initiatives, such as Live@Coppin, which has provided capital for the acquisition and development of vacant properties, down payment assistance incentives for homebuyers, and Coppin State University students and employees. This type of initiative is critical for creating affordable homeownership opportunities, which in turn foster generational wealth and support sustainability of the community.

We firmly believe that supporting this bill will accelerate the positive transformation of West Baltimore, creating a more vibrant, inclusive, and economically robust community. WNADA's work aligns perfectly with our vision for equitable development in Baltimore City.

We respectfully urge you to support this important legislation and continue empowering WNADA to drive meaningful change in Baltimore and throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Gina McKnight-Smith".

Dr. Gina McKnight-Smith, President/Managing Partner, VVP

cc: VVP Leadership Team
Donna Stevenson Robinson
Pamela Hawkins
Everene Johnson Turner