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

Thank you Chair Atterbeary and the Ways and Means Committee for your support of economic and neighborhood development throughout Maryland. I am writing to support the House Bill-0258, which supports the continuous support provided by the West North Avenue Development Authority. We are calling on our State to prioritize resources and support for West Baltimore and to work in partnership with the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA).

My name is Andre Bonaparte. I am the president of Frontline Management Services, a provider of public safety services for emerging urban communities. I am also a former Deputy Commissioner with more than 21 years' experience with the Baltimore Police Department. During my tenure with the department, I worked in the Western district and was a proponent of community policing philosophy which states, "a clean community is a safer community." I am pleased to say that my background and expertise have afforded me an opportunity to be the primary grant recipient for clean and green services and to provide an oversight of all public safety initiatives for the WNADA project. I would like to state for the record that the opinions expressed within this letter are my own.

I have witnessed firsthand the impact that underlying social and economic conditions and years of disinvestment in West Baltimore has had on the community. I wholeheartedly support the efforts that WNADA is making to improve and change the environment by focusing on keeping the community clean and safe and discouraging violence through outreach and intervention. These are the components of the comprehensive public safety strategy that WNADA has adopted. These efforts show that communities are valued and monitored. This has and will go a long way in changing the perception, behavior, and high incidents of crime in the area.

I am pleased that the State of Maryland is taking steps to address the years of economic and neighborhood development abandonment that the community has faced. I urge the committee to support House Bill – 0258 and Senate Bill 4.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this written testimony and the chance to weigh in on policy and the wellbeing of West Baltimore. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated. I would welcome an opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Andre Bonaparte*

Andre Bonaparte  
President  
Frontline Management Services