



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1581Horse Racing-Facility Ownership, Development, Licensing, and Operations-
Alterations

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB1581 with amendments.

My name is Yolanda Jiggets, and I'm the CEO of Park Heights Renaissance. Park Heights Renaissance (PHR) serves as the designated community development quarterback organization for Park Heights. Over the past several legislative sessions, the General Assembly has recognized the importance of ensuring that redevelopment of Pimlico produces long-term, measurable benefit for the surrounding community.

The State's investment in Pimlico represents a generational public commitment. As such, I strongly request the community reinvestment structure tied to Pimlico operations be clear, durable, and protected for the life of the facility.

Through prior Pimlico legislation, the General Assembly established:

- A minimum annual allocation to Park Heights Renaissance of \$2.4 million or 24%, whichever is greater;
- A 10% annual net income distribution to be returned to the community;
- A geographic framework allocating 85% to Park Heights and 15% to one-mile radius neighborhoods; and
- \$3.5m annually from our Pimlico Local Impact funding supports bond repayment for the Pimlico redevelopment project.

I want to thank the Administration for ensuring the 10% community investment language is restored into legislation. While the language was removed inadvertently, we want to ensure your original legislative intent to support investment in Park heights and the one-mile radius neighborhoods are truly benefitting for once from this major asset that has been in the community for more than 100 years.

While we are grateful for restoration of the 10% community investment provision, we ask that there also be clarification in the legislative definition and language regarding net income, how funds will be distributed, and that the calculation is inclusive of all revenue generated at the new Pimlico Site.

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The statute references '10% of annual net income of the thoroughbred racetrack operator but without clarification, years later questions may arise regarding revenue inclusion, expense deductions, timing of transfer, and duration of the obligation.

If left undefined, the community distribution could be unintentionally diminished through accounting structure, revenue segmentation, or administrative processes or delays as we have often seen in commitments made to the community. Clarification protects the legislative intent as well as the commitment to the community.

I am also a proud born antive of this community, and spent much of my life in that racetrack, but what I've haven't experienced is any significant economic contribution to the Park heights community or surrounding neighborhoods over my lifetime. We are excited to see new development at the Pimlico site, and the agreement I heard was: if the Pimlico Facility is successful and generates revenues, then the community in which it lives should equally share in that success.

The Pimlico redevelopment is intended to complement the economic development trends that we are beginning to see again in Park Heights but the investment needed just over the next several years to activate a comprehensive implementation strategy far exceeds \$100M. This revenue can be a major catalyst for effective change, stabilize surrounding neighborhoods, and return value to the community that has hosted this internationally acclaimed facility for 150+ years. The 10% distribution provision is the structural mechanism that guarantees this outcome.

Providing clear calculation language strengthens the State's investment and protects the long-term integrity of the redevelopment strategy. Park Heights Renaissance respectfully requests favorable consideration of the proposed clarifying amendment.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the long-term success of Pimlico and Park Heights.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Jiggetts
CEO, Park Heights Renaissance, Inc.