

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

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

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee

Good morning. My name is **Bishop Troy Randall**, and I serve as **President of the Arlington Neighborhood Association** in the Park Heights community. I am also the **Co-Chair of the Northwest Faith Based Partnership**.

I stand before you today **in full support of the legislation to restore the 10% community allocation** connected to the Pimlico redevelopment. This restoration is not just a policy correction — **it is a matter of justice, accountability, and honoring commitments** made to the people of Park Heights.

Pimlico has been part of our community for generations, yet for most of that time, there were **no direct contributions** to the neighborhoods surrounding it. When HB1524 was first introduced, I testified about the urgent need for a true community benefit package — one that would finally ensure that redevelopment would bring **real investment** to the residents who have carried the weight of this institution for decades.

I want to thank the Administration for recognizing the importance of this commitment and for ensuring that the 10% allocation is restored in the legislation. **This action affirms the promises made to Park Heights** and acknowledges the years of advocacy, planning, and community engagement that brought us to this moment.

The original legislation was built on clear priorities:

- **housing**
- **community safety**
- **redevelopment of vacant and blighted properties**
- **community beautification**

These are not optional. These are **essential pillars** of a healthy, thriving neighborhood. That is why we were deeply concerned when these commitments were removed. Their absence threatened the progress we have worked so hard to build.

For years, our community has participated in visioning sessions, planning meetings, and collaborative design efforts to imagine what Park Heights can become. We have a shared vision — **a community transformed, strengthened, and restored**. And the proceeds from the Pimlico redevelopment were always intended to help make that vision real.

Our anchor institutions — **Park Heights Renaissance, CHAI, and others** — are ready. They are already doing the work. They simply need the resources that were promised to continue stabilizing blocks, supporting families, and rebuilding what has been neglected for far too long.

We need funding for **enrichment programs and summer camps** for our children. We need support to address **vacant storefronts** and attract new businesses. We need investment that strengthens our neighborhoods and **restores dignity** to the people who call Park Heights home.

Right now, there is momentum. There is excitement. Our partners are energized, and Park Heights Renaissance is helping us navigate the possibilities — helping us understand what is achievable and what it will cost to bring these dreams to life.

But none of this can happen without the restoration of the funding that was originally committed to our community.

So today, **I stand in dedicated support of this legislation**. I stand for the promises made to Park Heights. I stand for the future our residents deserve.

Thank you for your time, your attention, and your commitment to ensuring that this legislation reflects both the needs and the dignity of the people of Park Heights.

**In partnership, Bishop Troy Randall President, Arlington Neighborhood Association
Co-Chair, Northwest Faith Based Partnership**

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