

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1142 Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures

Dear Chair Guzzone:

I am writing to express the City of College Park's strong support for HB 1142, which will establish a blue-ribbon task force to help evaluate how the State can enable localities to:

- **Relieve the Burden on Homeowners:** By identifying alternative revenue streams, we can move away from the "one-lever" system that forces the City to raise property taxes to meet rising costs.
- **Reflect a Modern Economy:** Our current tools were built for a mid-20th-century, manufacturing-driven, economy. We need a system that captures the value of our modern, service-based and visitor-driven economies.
- **Ensure Local Resilience:** Diversified revenue makes local governments more resilient to economic shifts, ensuring that municipal services remain stable even when the housing market fluctuates.

Our municipality, like many of the 157 cities and towns across Maryland, has an opportunity to modernize a revenue framework that has remained largely unchanged for nearly 60 years. Today, property taxes make up roughly half of our general fund. While we are proud to deliver essential services, relying so heavily on a single revenue source limits our ability to plan with confidence.

HB 1142 offers a constructive path forward. By exploring how to expand revenue options, strengthen local authority, and examine successful practices from other states, this legislation provides the financial flexibility needed to support long-term stability. Establishing this task force is an important first step toward ensuring we can continue to keep our community affordable, resilient, and vibrant for years to come.

For the benefit of our residents, the City of College Park urges your favorable consideration of HB 1142.

Sincerely,
s.m. fazlul kabir

Fazlul Kabir
Mayor

cc: President Bill Ferguson
Members, Budget & Tax Committee