



## Office of the Mayor

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 130  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Wilkins:

On behalf of the Town of Riverdale Park, I write in strong support of HB 1142 and the establishment of a Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures. As Mayor, I see firsthand how difficult it has become to meet growing service expectations within a revenue framework that has remained largely unchanged for decades.

Riverdale Park is a full-service municipality in Prince George's County bordered and intersected by three state highways. Thousands of vehicles pass through our town every day. Many of those visitors frequent our restaurants and small businesses, and we are proud to be a growing destination along the Route 1 corridor. At the same time, traffic increases demand on local infrastructure, public safety, trash collection, and other public works services. While visitors contribute to the local economy, the revenue generated from their activity does not proportionally support the municipality providing those services.

Each February, updated state property assessments largely determine our revenue outlook and shape the decisions we must make during budget season. Within that structure, municipalities like ours operate under several clear constraints:

- Property taxes make up the majority of our municipal revenue, tying our fiscal stability on a single source largely outside local control.
- Volatility in assessments restricts long-term planning and capital investment.
- Core services including police, infrastructure maintenance, trash pickup, and community programming depend on this constrained structure.
- Alternative revenue tools are limited.
- Additional strain ultimately falls on homeowners and small business owners.

At the same time, service expectations continue to grow. Modernization must be about equilibrium and long-term sustainability, not expansion. It should provide local governments with tools that promote stability and fiscal resilience while remaining sensitive to taxpayers.

**5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737**



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Riverdale Park has changed dramatically over the past sixty years. The services we provide have expanded. Resident expectations have evolved. We have become an important economic node within the broader Prince George's County ecosystem. Yet our municipal revenue framework remains rooted in a mid-twentieth-century model.

I appreciate the pragmatic and data-driven approach this legislation takes. Before making what could be a significant shift in how local governments are structured financially, it is responsible to study best practices, examine models used successfully in other states, and develop a clear understanding of the art of the possible and the best practices available to Maryland. Establishing a task force to conduct that research will provide the information needed to make thoughtful, long-term decisions about fiscal sustainability.

As this work moves forward, I hope municipalities of varying sizes and structures are meaningfully represented in the process. The fiscal realities of different communities vary considerably, and a detailed and nuanced conversation will benefit from those diverse perspectives.

We strongly support this effort and urge favorable consideration of HB 1142.

Respectfully,

Mayor Ifiok Inyang  
Town of Riverdale Park