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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Brandon Scott
President, Baltimore City Council
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

The Honorable Sharon Green Middleton
Chair, Taxation, Finance & Economic Development Committee
Baltimore City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 500,
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Council President Scott & Chairwoman Middleton:

I write today to express my support for the work happening as a part of the Perkins-Somerset-Oldtown project which you are reviewing as it seeks public investment from the City of Baltimore. This project adds to the growth and equity of our City, and that of East Baltimore in particular, as it seeks to redevelop neighborhoods that were neglected and ignored for decades. In light of the project's potential and activity, I am following its progress and speak in support because its Somerset and Oldtown sections are located in the 45th District. Of equal importance, I am excited by this project because the partnership includes a minority owned Development Company acting with intention to hire people from the area and indirectly impacted by the development. This component of their effort is illustrated by their work with Urban Alliance, whom I understand is working with our public housing neighbors in the affected area to address issues of workforce development, housing, and educational opportunities.

Just this week, I toured the area with Councilman Robert Stokes and its neighbors, the 1234 McElderry Park project, to witness the state of the development. I have worked closely with Chair Maggie McIntosh and the 46th District's representatives to attract state resources for the project. I am working closely with the Department of Housing and Development and the Board of Public Works to fully educate myself on all resources being requested from the agency and how it will impact the neighborhood. We are all worked to engage the State of Maryland, and are proud to note it is a full partner in this project.

While with any project there are details to work through, I offer my support for the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bill necessary to support the city infrastructure for this project. I look forward to continuing this work with the project's development partners, the City of Baltimore, the Housing Authority of Baltimore, and the State of Maryland to ensure accountability and transparency for this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', written in a cursive style.

Cory V. McCray
State Senator