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Testimony
25-0102 Charles Village Community Benefits District and Management Authority
February 3, 2026
FAVORABLE

Chair Torrence and Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee:

I am writing to urge your support for **25-0102 Charles Village Community Benefits District and Management Authority**. Passage of this legislation would authorize the Charles Village Community Benefits District and Management Authority (CVCBD) to continue its important work in Charles Village for another four years.

The CVCBD is the first community driven benefits district in Baltimore, having been established in 1995 at the urging of residents in the area. The goal of the benefits district, and others that followed, are to provide additional safety patrol and cleaning initiatives to the area. Residents pay a special tax to fund the CVCBD to provide these additional services. Other benefits districts in Baltimore City include the Midtown Benefits District, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore and Waterfront Partnership.

The CVCBD has played a significant role in the Charles Village area. The organization covers the neighborhoods of Charles Village, Abell, Harwood, and Old Goucher. CVCBD provides a street sweeping team that ensures the curbs and alleyways are clean, provides a security patrol through Wolfe security, and partners with the communities to work with our residents experiencing homelessness, work with young people, and more. The Board is made up of residents and stakeholders in the area.

Community Benefits Districts are not designed to take over the services that City Government should provide to the residents – like trash collection and police patrol. They are designed to supplement these services. A baseline agreement is always signed after re-authorization so that it is clear the services that the city must continue to provide, and what the CVCBD will provide.

In short, the CVCBD has been a valuable part of our community, enabling the four communities in the catchment area to flourish and grow. Please vote a favorable report for this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted:

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