



TO: The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings Blake
and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall,
100. N. Holiday Street
Attn: Karen Randle

FROM: Angela Fraser, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

DATE: November 5, 2008

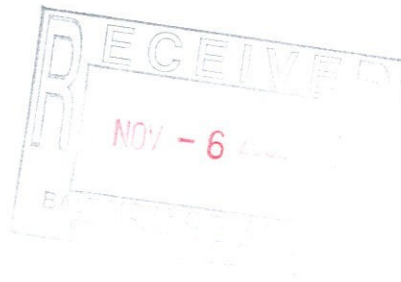
RE: City Council Bill No. 08-0118

City Council Bill No.: 08-0118 – Confiscated Assets for Neighborhoods

Community organizations citywide have a focus on public safety and to varying degrees participate in activities that promote and support safer neighborhoods. These activities range from monthly meetings and citizen on patrol walks to community clean-ups and block parties. Most community groups rely on grants, donations and nominal membership dues to fund the activities that they organize. Providing an additional source of funding for community-led public safety initiatives will only strengthen and encourage the efforts of well established community groups.

This legislation provides a dedicated source of funds specifically for community-based safety initiatives. To my knowledge, there are limited sources of this type of funding and the process for communities to acquire funds can be burdensome, i.e. complex application process, a lot of competition for a limited amount of funds etc. An accessible fund with a streamlined application process will be of significant benefit to communities striving to prevent crime and improve safety.

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods supports the legislation.




Angela Fraser
Director
Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods