



Sep 13, 2022

Dear Chair Sharon Green Middleton:

As the Economic and Community Development Committee prepares to review legislation for the establishment of the York Corridor Business Improvement District (BID), I am writing to express my strong support of the BID.

As a York Corridor business owner for many years, I recognize the need for an entity focused on business advocacy and improvement along the Corridor, and believe that the BID will move us towards a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant district. The proposed services related to the BID, ranging from emptying trash cans to providing entry level jobs to attracting new businesses, will all have a tangible and positive impact on the Corridor for current and future businesses and their patrons. In particular, I believe the BID will bring more patrons to the York Corridor and create more neighborhood engagement in a way that will positively benefit my newly renovated restaurant, Flight, and the other new and existing restaurants nearby.

While there is a strong sense of place along York Road, and active civic participation, there is currently no overarching or unifying body for business and commercial property owners. The York Corridor Business Improvement District can fill that void, and with its establishment will ensure a cohesive vision and voice for the Corridor's commercial body. The York Corridor Vision and Action Plan has since 2015 asserted that the BID is the right and best next step for the Corridor, and we are overdue in taking this step.

We should be especially aware of York Road as being a past line of division in Baltimore, a historic redline and marker of segregation, and as such, any new initiatives here should be intentionally focused on improving economic and social outcomes, in an equitable way. The proposed BID does that, bringing together both east and west sides, as well as northern, central, and southern segments, to connect businesses and neighborhoods and strengthen the economic viability of the whole Corridor.

I strongly support the establishment of the BID and thank you for considering this legislation. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ray Davis

Ray Davis
Owner, Flight Restaurant and Bar
BID Board Chair