



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

— 1852 —

August 22, 2022

The Honorable Sharon Green Middleton
100 N. Holliday Street
City Hall, Room 516
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Middleton:

We hope this email finds you well! As the Economic and Community Development Committee prepares to review legislation for the establishment of the York Road Business Improvement District (BID), I am writing to express my strong support of the BID.

As an anchor institution on the York Road Corridor and in Baltimore City, and through our work with the York Road Initiative (YRI), 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. Loyola and the YRI have and will continue to demonstrate our direct commitment to the BID process through a variety of organizational and community-led resources. 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.

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.

The BID will provide the platform for discussions and advocacy around development, redevelopment, and public safety along the corridor. Loyola's commitment to this effort is evidenced through a 2022 congressional community project funding grant, sponsored by Senator Christopher Van Hollen, that includes operational and financial support for the BID prior to the reception of any funds from taxes. This funding will allow for the BID to gear up their operations and to be ready to hit the ground running upon approval by the Mayor, City Council and the businesses along the 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence M. Sawyer", written in a cursive style.

Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D.
President