



Written “Support” Testimony to the Baltimore City Council

**Ordinance 24-0594
City-Wide Affordable Housing Bond Issuance**

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

**Jared Jackson
Housing Development Officer**

Written “Support” Testimony to the Baltimore City Council

**Ordinance 24-0594
City-Wide Affordable Housing Bond Issuance**

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

**Jared Jackson
Housing Development Officer
State of Maryland – West North Avenue Development Authority**

Good Morning Council President Mosby, Councilmembers Torrence, Porter, Bullock, and Cohen and other members of the Baltimore City Council.

I'm Jared Jackson, Housing Development Officer for the West North Avenue Development Authority. I'm also a Baltimore native.

On behalf of Chad Williams, our Executive Director, he regrets his inability to be present for this testimony due to multiple scheduling conflicts, which include supporting the Baltimore Development Corporation's Baltimore Together Summit as a Leadership Sponsor speaking on rebuilding Baltimore's future through community and neighborhood development and appearing with the Governor soon to announce the coming of a new grocery store to West Baltimore that WNADA has funded.

The Maryland General Assembly established the State of Maryland - West North Avenue Development Authority for Baltimore City (WNADA), on October 1, 2021, to create a comprehensive plan for housing, economic, transportation, and neighborhood development along West North Avenue. *"The Authority serves a public purpose. Its function is to promote the revitalization of a neighborhood, both for the benefit of the neighborhood's residents and for the general purpose of economic development. EC § 12-706."*

The Authority has five (5) legislative powers and authorities, with two of those relevant for this testimony:

1. *Ensure that money is being spent effectively and efficiently by the State and City for development and that development is happening in the appropriate way for West North Avenue,*
2. *Provide advisory services to State and City agencies on planning and development for West North Avenue.*

The West North Avenue Development Authority's Executive Director also counsels the Governor and Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees on economic development matters in Baltimore City.

The proposed Baltimore City-Wide Affordable Housing Bond Issuance, Ordinance 24-0694, is an efficient and effective use of City resources in partnership with Maryland DHCD and the West North Avenue Development Authority. We also believe these resources will be used strategically, under the leadership of Commissioner Alice Kennedy, to address vacancies and blight, which will assist the State and City in increasing property, sales, and income tax revenue.

The West North Avenue Development Authority, through its partnership with Baltimore City DHCD, was engaged in the concept and planning of this initiative. The initiative's goals of prioritizing residents at 60% AMI and legacy residents who are renters or homeowners meet the State's goal, through WNADA, of revitalization without displacement.

Therefore, our agency supports the approval of Baltimore City Ordinance 24-0694, City-Wide Affordable Housing Bond Issuance.

We thank all the members at Baltimore DHCD for their work in making this initiative a reality. Our Executive Director would like to give a special thanks to Stacy Freed.

I thank you, members of the Council, for allowing me to testify.