



DRUID HEIGHTS
Community Development Corporation

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation

2140 McCulloh Street Baltimore, Maryland 21217

**Testimony SB 387 –
Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act Funding
February 12, 2019
Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and the Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

We urge this committee to vote a favorable report for SB 387 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding SB 387 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created during the 2018 legislative session. The funding will be critical operating dollars to use for community development organizations to apply for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more. The funding source is \$5 million from surplus of the Unclaimed Property Fund.

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) is a community-based, 501 (c)(3) non-profit community development corporation. DHCDC is located in zip code 21217 in Baltimore City, within Census Tract 1403 a designated Urban Renewal Area. Our mission is to cause, encourage and promote community self-empowerment, through the development of economic, educational, employment, and affordable housing opportunities.

The overall goal of the organization is to eliminate blight and accelerate the revitalization of the neighborhood by preserving (where feasible) and improving existing housing and developing new affordable housing that will attract and meet the needs of low to moderate income families. To accomplish this goal, DHCDC has implemented a number of community development initiatives that have proven to strengthen the fabric of the community. Although its core competency is housing and community redevelopment, it is also very aware of the importance of human service programs that address the needs of children and families. All programs and activities benefit low to moderate income residents of Druid Heights and surrounding communities.



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DHCDC continues to face many challenges with funding for development projects that assist with creating affordable housing. One important factor for community development organizations is the lack of funding. DHCDC is requesting that you vote for SB 387. Through this funding our organization will be able to continue to create homeownership opportunities that will assist in reducing blight, reducing crime and help to create a healthier environment for the residents within Baltimore City. Please vote a favorable report for SB 387.

Respectfully Submitted: Ms. JohnDre Jennings, Director of Real Estate Development