A Message from the Chair

This past year has been both exciting and challenging when it comes to Video Lottery Terminal funds for the Pimlico Area.

First, the good news: Local Impact Aid is producing real and tangible results. Consistent with the Park Heights Master Plan, acquisition of properties in the Major Redevelopment Area is proceeding at a steady pace and human service programs are up and running. In the One Mile Radius, Healthy Neighborhoods and our City agency partners are making progress in implementing many projects.

The year has had its challenges related to the amount of funding available for these important initiatives. After the release of the Draft Spending Plan in November 2014, revenues were threatened in two ways: first, they have not been consistently performing up to estimates and secondly, the Governor proposed budget cuts in his State budget submission. These changes delayed the release of the Final FY16 Spending Plan, and also forced reductions to the FY15 Spending Plan.

The City and the PCDA are committed to weathering these revenue storms in a manner that continues to advance the important work that is being done. We are confident that the revenue instability is short-lived and can be effectively managed while the exciting opportunities that lie ahead will be long-lasting and transformative.

I invite you to join with PCDA to champion the many wonderful things happening in the greater Pimlico area.

Thomas J. Stosur
Chair

What Is the Pimlico Community Development Authority?

The Pimlico Community Development Authority is a group of Pimlico area stakeholders who meet regularly regarding Racetrack Impact Funds, Video Lottery Terminal revenue, and implementation of the Park Heights Master Plan. PCDA was originally created by state legislation in 2005 to allocate Racetrack Impact Funds. In 2007, the Maryland Education Trust Fund – Video Lottery Terminals legislation assigned PCDA an advisory role in determining funding allocations for slots revenue in the Pimlico area. In addition to the legislatively mandated roles, PCDA has taken an active role in monitoring the implementation of the Park Heights Master Plan.
Slots Revenue at Work: One Mile Radius

Since FY12, nearly $3.5 million in local impact aid has been allocated for projects in the “One Mile Radius” areas of the Northwest Community Planning Forum, Liberty Heights and Wabash Avenues, and Coldspring Newtown.

A number of projects are being implemented by City agencies, while others are being spearheaded by Healthy Neighborhoods Inc. HNI is the City’s partner to define, plan, implement, and manage 17 community-based projects in the One Mile Radius. HNI has been working with community groups to define the scopes of work, prepare budgets, and facilitate the nuts-and-bolts of entering into agreements using public funds.

- **Northwest Community Planning Forum SNAP Area**

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is working on five projects in the NWCPF. Construction is expected to begin soon on the new playground at Northwest Park, and other improvements – a walking path and parking realignment – will occur in conjunction with work being done on the Jones Falls Trail. Planning for that work is expected to continue over the summer, with construction to be bid in the fall of 2015.

BCRP and Department of General Services are close to finalizing the subdivision for the land transfer of a part of the open space at the Pimlico Safety Academy so that BCRP can install improvements to the field and parking area. The community has agreed to a design for a 90’ baseball field and regulation football/soccer field, walking path with benches and shade trees, and parking for 30 cars.

The Department of Transportation is working with community leaders to finalize the scope and focus of a transportation study. Given the available budget, DOT has requested that the community prioritize the most critical intersections and institutions to be evaluated for their impacts on vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Current HNI projects include street cleaning by Chimes crews and the Fallstaff Experience Project - multicultural organizers are beginning to offer workshops, get residents engaged, and promote cross-cultural dialogues and...
Slots Revenue at Work: One Mile Radius

events. Public safety-related projects in NWCPF include completing the Hatzalah community center/EMS training facility. HNI is managing a small community grants pool and working closely with CHAI to launch several housing-related initiatives.

• Liberty-Wabash Area
DOT is making steady progress on the streetscape improvements along Dolfeld Avenue, between Belle Avenue and Cold Spring Lane. More than a dozen trees have been planted, and new stamped pedestrian crosswalks have been installed. Planters, bike racks, and trash and recycling receptacles will be coming in June.

Baltimore Development Corporation is working with two property owners – representing more than a dozen retail storefronts – to install façade improvements on Dolfeld Avenue. The Boys & Girls Club has been operating at Callaway Elementary since September through a grant with HNI, and several small community projects will be receiving grant funds.

• Coldspring Newtown
DOT has completed two projects in the last several months – the community sign and wooden guardrails in Coldspring Newtown. Coldspring Newtown’s project to make improvements to the pool is being deferred until after the 2015 summer swim season.
Slots Revenue at Work: Park Heights Master Plan Area

More than $10 million in VLT impact aid has supported several capital projects and human service programs since FY12 in Park Heights.

Construction is underway on an expansion of the CC Jackson Recreation Center, and slots are being used toward athletic lighting and other site improvements. This follows an earlier investment of slot funds - along with private funds and City and State funds - to develop Ripken Fields, a 91,000 square foot artificial turf multi-purpose field.

Sixty percent of slots funds have been used for site assembly in the Major Redevelopment Area in order for catalytic new development to proceed.

Baltimore Housing is actively acquiring properties, with the goal to complete acquisition by the end of 2015, with demolition along Park Heights Avenue completed by summer 2016. As of this writing, more than 85% of the properties in the Major Redevelopment Area have been acquired by the City or are under active acquisition process. (See map, following page.)

In April, Baltimore Housing, the Department of Planning, and Park Heights Renaissance hosted a Developers’ Round Table to start spreading the word about the exciting opportunity that the redevelopment of Park Heights holds. The City is planning to release a request for development proposals in the fall of 2015.

PHR acts as a catalyst for change, bringing together residents, businesses, institutions, and investors to foster both physical and social improvements. Slots funding has provided a stable source of operating income for this key City partner.

PHR conducts important community organizing and communication work, supports human services programs, and has begun to acquire and renovate houses for resale.

In order to protect and to build on the success of Renaissance Gardens, over $1.2 million in slots and State funds is being invested in the adjacent blocks of Rosewood Avenue and Loyola Northway.

The 2600 block of Rosewood, in conjunction with the 4300 block of Park Heights Avenue, will create a new development site that will double as a gateway to Renaissance Gardens. The 2600 block of Loyola Northway includes 16 vacant structures that are targeted for rehabilitation through a combination of acquisition by PHR and the City’s use of its receivership authority.
Park Heights Acquisition Status

- Major Redevelopment Area
- Current Acquisitions
- Future Acquisitions
- City Owned
- Vacant Buildings
- Vacant Lots

1 inch = 300 feet
Park Heights Youth Development

Human services programs continue to be a high priority in allocating funds in Park Heights. Since FY12, $1.4 million has been at work supporting five programs – with a sixth to be added soon – that serve the area’s youth and young adults. Projects are required to be collaborative, with a Park Heights-based partner, to ensure that the needs of the community are met.

Many youth are engaged in these programs:

• Project Engage provides positive youth programming, mental health and HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to 200 at-risk Park Heights/Pimlico area youth ages 14-21.

• Project YES! promotes holistic personal development for youth, including a Life Planning Institute to provide basic skills and credentials to enter the workforce and cultivate stress management skills to cope and thrive in challenging transitions.

• The Kujichagulia Center, a partnership between Sinai Hospital and New Vision Youth Services, aims to reduce rates of school dropouts and absences, youth unemployment, and involvement in the cycle of violence.

• Project EXPOSED! provides services in the areas of Life Skills, Health and Wellness, and Job Preparedness, and assigns each youth a mentor for weekly sessions.

• Project PAYE (Pathways to Arts and Youth Entrepreneurship) provides 75 youth, ages 14-24, with the skills necessary to develop self-sustaining income streams in media arts, performing arts, and entrepreneurship.

• Project STEAM will start with a summer program serving 55 youth. FULLBLAST S.T.E.A.M. will engage the youth in constructing a life size board game where they will learn to address the ills in their community that come up on the board.

Read about these programs in the Impact Aid Quarterly Reports at https://pcdabaltimore.wordpress.com
FY15 and FY16 Spending

Several hundred community members attended meetings in the fall of 2014 to discuss community priorities with PCDA and then hear about and react to the Mayor’s proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2016. PCDA considered the community input and made recommendations to the Mayor in early December 2014.

Unfortunately, the revenue picture for Local Impact Aid changed considerably after the release of the Draft FY16 Spending Plan. First, the gross revenues generated by slot machines have failed to meet projections, resulting in approximately $500,000 less in both FY15 and FY16. In addition, Governor Hogan proposed statutory changes and budget reductions that would further reduce Pimlico Area Local Impact Aid, again by approximately $500,000 in each year.

The City, to maintain a fiscally responsible approach, revised the spending plans for both FY15 and FY16 to more closely align with the anticipated levels of revenue. Fortunately, the proposed budget reductions did not come to pass, in no small part due to the efforts of the City delegation. The City is optimistic that the FY16 revenues will allow for the full implementation of the FY16 Spending Plan. Revenue estimates are evaluated annually and future plans can be adjusted for over- or under- attainment. Details on the spending plan and the FY15 adjustments are available on the PCDA website: https://pcdabaltimore.wordpress.com

State law stipulates that at least 75% of the Local Impact Aid is to be used to implement the Park Heights Master Plan and up to 25% is to be used for the benefit of three surrounding geographic areas (commonly referred to as the One Mile Radius.) As in prior years, 15% of the Park Heights Master Plan share is allocated to human services and youth development programs. The Mayor’s Office of Human Services will conduct an RFP process to identify qualified providers, and programs funded in FY13/14 will be eligible for follow-on funding. New in FY16 are funds for job training scholarships to support Park Heights residents enrolling in the computerized manufacturing and welding programs offered by the Jane Addams Resource Center.

Funds for the One Mile Radius regions are allocated based on relative shares of population and land area in the overall eligible impact aid zone. Significant projects for FY16 include additional investment in Northwest Park and the Public Safety Academy fields, addressing vacant and blighted housing in Liberty-Wabash, and preparing for the eventual redevelopment of the Mercantile Building in Coldspring Newtown.
Who is the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA)?

Authority members are volunteers appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City. The Director of Planning serves as Chair of PCDA. Below is a list of current members, their affiliations, and when their terms expire:

1. Thomas J. Stosur, Department of Planning, PCDA Chair
5. Gloria Cinquegrani, Pimlico Racecourse (2015)
6. Beth Huber, Sinai Hospital (2016)
7. Ramsey Harris, PNC Bank (2016)
12. Senator Lisa Gladden, 41st District
13. Delegate Nathaniel Oaks, 41st District
14. Senator Catherine Pugh, 40th District
15. Delegate Barbara Robinson, 40th District

How Does PCDA Work with Park Heights Renaissance (PHR)?

State legislation requires PCDA to allocate the Racetrack and Video Lottery Terminal Impact Funds to address the housing, economic, and community development needs of the Park Heights corridor. To help achieve this goal, PCDA established the Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. (PHR). PHR is a community-based development organization whose mission is implementing the Park Heights Master Plan. Unlike PCDA, which is a volunteer board, PHR was formed as a 501c3 with the staff and organizational infrastructure to implement the plan.

PCDA primarily allocates and advises on funding while PHR seeks funding to implement the Master Plan and administer programs.

Both organizations engage community stakeholders and host public meetings. To learn more about PCDA’s meeting schedule, visit our website or call 410-396-1453. To learn more about PHR’s Resident Council and other opportunities for community engagement, visit www.boldnewheights.org or call 410-664-4890.

Pimlico Community Development Authority

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Are you interested in learning more about Pimlico Community Development Authority and how slots revenue is being spent in your community? Please visit our website to review past and current spending plans and reports on the implementation of funded projects.

https://pcdabaltimore.wordpress.com/documents

WANT TO JOIN PCDA?

Every year, new members are appointed to PCDA. PCDA has developed an application for potential new members to express an interest in being appointed. Applications are available online:

https://pcdabaltimore.wordpress.com/about-pcda/

or by contacting Mary Clapsaddle at 410-396-1453 or mary.clapsaddle@baltimorecity.gov