

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR
Director

December 5, 2014

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: FY16 Pimlico Area Local Impact Aid

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake:

As Chair of the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA), I hereby submit PCDA's recommendations regarding the City's proposed spending plan for FY 2016 Video Lottery Terminal (Slots) Revenue, released on October 22, 2014.

Prior to the release of the proposed spending plan, PCDA and the Planning Department held two public meetings (on September 9 and October 1) to gather information about community priorities. PCDA held a public meeting on October 29 to review the proposed plan and to receive feedback from interested stakeholders; the public was also invited to submit comments in writing. PCDA considered all public input during a work session to develop these recommendations.

Park Heights Master Plan Area

PCDA supports the focus in the proposed spending plan to continue the acquisition and demolition of properties within the Major Redevelopment Area and looks forward to the studies that will help inform the redevelopment process.

PCDA is pleased that human service programs continue to receive 15% of the anticipated revenue but recognizes that the Mayor's Office of Human Services has had some difficulty this year in attracting strong proposals. PCDA recommends that steps be taken to ensure that sufficient capacity exists for non-Park Heights-based program providers to forge connections with Park Heights partner agencies to support the objective that program providers collaborate with Park Heights-based organizations. Additionally, if difficulties persist in attracting quality proposals, PCDA recommends that the current RFP process be evaluated.

PCDA enthusiastically supports the funding for manufacturing skills training at the Magna Center, with the recommendation that the service provider work in partnership with a Park Heights-based organization in its outreach efforts.

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PCDA appreciates the work that Park Heights Renaissance performs as the City's agent and partner in implementing the Park Heights Master Plan and recommends that PHR be held strictly accountable for the grant funds it receives. PCDA recommends that a detailed budget for PHR be established that indicates, for each program, the dollars allocated and the criteria for measuring success. PHR should be expected to develop strong partnerships with other organizations in the Park Heights community. To this end, PCDA will request to meet jointly twice each year with the board and executive staff of PHR to further each group's understanding of the work of the other.

Regarding the additional \$50,000 for staff, PCDA recommends that the work of this community organizer be more clearly articulated and justified (vis-à-vis the funding and activities in PHR's base operating grant).

Finally, PCDA is pleased that funds are earmarked for small community grants, and recommends that PHR consider the role that Neighborhoods United and/or other community associations can play as a partner in implementing neighborhood projects.

One Mile Radius Area

In the Northwest Community Planning Forum, PCDA generally agrees with the projects and priorities as set out in the proposed spending plan. Regarding the Pimlico Safety Academy, there is concern about the continued use of the facility by the Police and Fire departments and the effect that any change in use would have on the area proposed to be developed for recreational purposes. PCDA is seeking assurance from your office on the future use of this site.

In the Liberty-Wabash area, PCDA supports the allocations as proposed but recommends that there be a high level of accountability and transparency in use of the funds.

PCDA supports the use of the Coldspring Newtown allocation to support the eventual redevelopment of the Mercantile Building/Community Cottage/Pool Area as proposed.

I hope you will give serious consideration to PCDA's recommendations as you finalize the spending plan. The entire greater Pimlico community looks forward to seeing the final spending plan and moving forward with implementation.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Stosur

Chair, Pimlico Community Development Authority

cc: Mr. Colin Tarbert, Deputy Chief, Economic and Neighborhood Development