

# PIMLICO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



March 30, 2017

Mayor Catherine Pugh  
City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: FY18 Pimlico Area Local Impact Aid

Dear Mayor Pugh:

As Chair of the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA), I hereby submit PCDA's recommendations regarding the City's proposed spending plan for FY 2018 Video Lottery Terminal (Slots) Revenue, released on February 14, 2017.

PCDA held a public meeting on February 23, 2017 to review the draft FY18 spending plan and to receive feedback from interested stakeholders; the public was also invited to submit comments in writing. PCDA held a second public meeting on March 20, 2017 to receive additional feedback from the public. PCDA considered all public input to develop these recommendations. A summary of comments from the meetings and a copy of the written comments received are attached to these recommendations.

PCDA members largely support the spending plan as written, including the increased percentage to the Park Heights area, but we do have a few recommendations as detailed below. As the funding levels have now stabilized, PCDA recommends development of a multi-year spending plan and has made, accordingly, some recommendations for key projects for funding in FY19.

## Park Heights Master Plan Area

PCDA generally supports the recommendations in the spending plan as consistent with the Park Heights Master Plan. We support the recommendation to use \$500,000 in prior year Racetrack Impact Funds to support the operations of Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. We recommend that the final spending plan include the following items:

- **A feasibility study for a library in Park Heights.** Ever since the local branch library closed, Park Heights residents have strongly desired a replacement library. As the City works with community partners to rebuild the neighborhood as a place for families, a new library will be an important anchor for attracting residents, along with the new C.C. Jackson Recreation Center and Park, and the two new 21<sup>st</sup> Century School buildings currently under construction. The feasibility study should include analysis of the viability of a library including demand for various library

services (lending library, reference resources, computer stations, meeting space, pre-school area, homework help, etc.), operating cost, space requirements, etc. The study should also identify potential locations for a library facility within the Park Heights Master Plan area, and the pros and cons, including cost, of each potential location. The scope and budget for the study should be developed by Pratt Libraries, and the study itself should be overseen by Pratt as well. PCDA recommends using a small portion of the funds allocated to the Major Redevelopment Area to pay for the feasibility study in FY18, and we encourage completion of the study as quickly as possible once the fiscal year begins. The FY19 spending plan should include funds to advance implementation of the library based on the feasibility study.

- **Additional funds for Human Services.** Compared to FY17, the human services funds are proposed to be cut in half in the draft FY18 spending plan. We think it is critical to invest in our youth, particularly older youth ages 14-24. We would like to see an additional \$250,000 allocated to Human Services and a new RFP issued for year-round programs (programs that have received funding in the past would be eligible to apply). We would also like to see a small portion of the additional human services funding targeted to expanding the number of youth in Park Heights participating in DOT's snow removal program for seniors. We recommend using \$250,000 of the funds allocated to the Park Heights corridor to increase the human services funding and we encourage reducing the administrative fees associated with this funding to the extent possible. We believe this reallocation should have no discernable impact on the Park Heights Avenue target area in FY 18, and are supportive of replacing the \$250,000 towards the project in FY19 if needed.
- **Target development incentives in INSPIRE areas.** In FY18, PCDA recommends that the \$750,000 designated for development incentives be targeted to the area around Pimlico Elementary/Middle. We think it is critical to invest in the area surrounding this school prior to the re-opening of the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century building. In particular, we think funds should be focused on the 4800 block of Pimlico Road, directly across the street from the school. We understand that Baltimore Housing has offered several City-owned properties for redevelopment and additional vacant houses on this block are going through the receivership process, but we feel it is important to invest in this entire block, including the occupied houses. We request that the City explore grant/forgivable loan opportunities to encourage existing residents to improve their homes. This effort should also leverage existing resources from the Baltimore City Housing and Health Departments including weatherization, LEAD hazard prevention, homebuyer incentives, and homeownership counseling. In FY19, we recommend targeting the development incentives to the Arlington Elementary INSPIRE area, around Park Heights' second 21<sup>st</sup> Century School.
- **Belvedere corridor.** Assuming completion of the Park Heights Avenue strategy outlined for the area from Park Circle to Springhill in FY18, PCDA recommends using a similar strategy and funding allocation for the Belvedere corridor in FY19. The Belvedere corridor will also require a strategy for commercial properties, but should be able to leverage support from Lifebridge Health and Pimlico Racetrack.

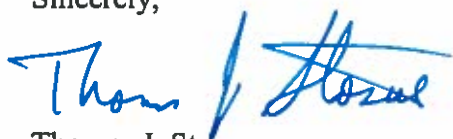
### One Mile Radius Area

In the One Mile Radius, PCDA generally agrees with the projects and priorities as set out in the proposed spending plan, but recommends that the final spending plan include the following items:

- **Northwest Community Planning Forum – Public Safety.** In response to Councilman Schleifer’s request for \$288,000 for an ambulance for Hatzalah, PCDA recommends \$240,865 for Public Safety in FY18. In the FY17 spending plan, there is \$100,000 for Public Safety. It is our understanding that \$75,000 will be used for a patrol car for Shomrim and \$25,000 would be available for the ambulance, resulting in a total of \$265,865 available for the ambulance. PCDA recommends private fundraising for the remainder of the cost. To make funds available for this priority in FY18, we recommend reducing Streetcleaning from \$135,000 to \$100,000, Northwest Citizens on Patrol from \$50,000 to \$25,000, and Development Incentives from \$180,865 to \$0. PCDA believes that CHAI’s Glen Hills Redevelopment Strategy and homebuyer/renovation loan fund serve essentially the same purpose as the development incentives for the area.
- **Liberty Wabash – Neighborhood initiative competitive grants.** PCDA recommends increasing the amount available for Neighborhood initiatives and competitive grants by \$41,738 and reducing the Development Incentives for this area by an equal amount, to provide the neighborhoods more ability to advance their community development goals. There would still remain \$150,000 in development incentives for renovation of key properties in the community in FY18.
- **Coldspring Newtown – Mercantile** – PCDA does not recommend any funding changes for this project, but we express our concern about when this project will move forward as it has been ongoing for several years.

Madame Mayor, PCDA would like to thank you for your leadership to utilize local impact aid in a strategic manner that will rebuild the Park Heights community, as well as benefit the surrounding neighborhoods. We are confident 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, most importantly, moving forward with implementation.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Stosur  
Chair, Pimlico Community Development Authority

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen