

PIMLICO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



February 1, 2024

Mayor Brandon M. Scott
City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: PCDA Recommendations for FY25 Pimlico Area Local Impact Aid

Dear Mayor Scott:

As Chair of the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA), I hereby submit the Pimlico Community Development Authority's recommendations for the FY 2025 Spending Plan for Pimlico Local Impact Aid.

Together, the PCDA and City have made significant improvements to increase transparency, accountability, and equity in the allocation of Pimlico Local Impact Aid. The FY25 cycle introduced a funding application and a five-month application period to level the playing field between City agencies, established community-based organizations, and emerging community-based organizations seeking funding. As a result, nine of the proposed awardees are first-time funding recipients, and 100% of awardees provided complete scopes of work, budgets, and performance measures, which will expedite contract execution and tracking.

Further, for the first time, the PCDA had the opportunity on November 1 to publicly review and offer feedback on initial funding requests, prior to the draft Spending Plan release on December 18. The PCDA again reviewed requests and solicited community feedback during the public hearing on December 19. After the conclusion of the public comment period on January 12, 2024, the PCDA reviewed a total of 28 final applications for funding, 25 responses to a community survey, 64 letters of support, and a petition signed by 200 residents. At their work session on January 20, the PCDA voted line by line to approve or revise draft recommendations. The PCDA's final recommendations follow.

PCDA Recommendations without Revisions: Park Heights Master Plan Area

Single-Family Homes Construction - NHP Foundation (\$750,000): Phase 1 of the NHP Foundation's development project in Central Park Heights consists of 100 units of senior housing, 53 units of multifamily housing, and 17 single family for-sale new construction homes. The PCDA voted to approve \$750,000 to NHP Foundation to help fill a construction gap on 9 of the 17 single-family homes.

Park West Health Systems Capital Expansion (\$500,000): The PCDA voted to approve \$500,000 in Local Impact Aid to support the capital expansion of Park West Health Systems, the only federally qualified health center in Park Heights.

Park Circle Redevelopment Project - DHCD (\$494,000): Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is in the process of acquiring 13 properties in the 3400-4200 blocks of Park Heights Ave. through in rem foreclosure. DHCD is also monitoring 24 vacant properties that have been recently sold or are currently under permit in this footprint. Through condemnation and negotiation, DHCD seeks to acquire 19 additional eligible properties for homeownership outcomes in this footprint. The PCDA voted to approve \$494,000 to DHCD for the purpose of acquiring these 19 eligible properties.

Baltimore Redlining and Blight Elimination in Arlington, Central Park Heights, and Park Circle (\$390,000): The PCDA voted to approve \$390,000 in funding to support a redevelopment project led by the Baltimore Redlining and Blight Elimination CDC. The project consists of redeveloping seven vacant buildings throughout Arlington, Central Park Heights, and Park Circle for homeownership outcomes. The properties are located at 3523 and 3526 W. Belvedere Ave.; 4021, 4023, and 4027 Reisterstown Rd.; and 3429 and 3431 Park Heights Ave.

Bmore You Pop-Up Shop - Excellence & Ambition (\$254,000): The PCDA voted to recommend \$254,000 to Excellence & Ambition for the expansion of their Bmore You Pop-Up Shop program. This after-school, workforce development program provides young people in Park Heights with job- and skills-training in healthy food retail.

Candystripe Basketball Court Revitalization (\$145,000): The PCDA voted to recommend \$145,000 to revitalize a basketball court located on the inner-block parcels of 3700 Cottage Avenue. The proposed upgrades include reorienting the court to allow for full-court play; re-grading, re-paving, and re-stripping the court; and installing a fence to protect players from car traffic, illegal dumping, and other potential safety hazards. The adjacent Candystripe Park will be renovated in the summer of 2024 using Capital Improvement Program funds.

Northwest Neighborhood Grants Program (Park Heights): The PCDA recommended \$130,000 to support a community-based competitive grants program for Park Heights. In calendar year 2023, the program was only available in the One-Mile Radius. The PCDA and members of the community support expanding the program to Park Heights to support community-initiated operating and physical improvement projects.

Dayspring Revamp and Portable Classroom (\$89,000): The PCDA voted to recommend \$89,000 to support Dayspring Inc., an early childhood education center located in the Arlington neighborhood. The funding supports Dayspring’s efforts to upgrade their building and playground to provide a higher-quality education environment to their community of young learners and their families. The allocation also supports the Center to secure a portable classroom to expand their program.

Catherine’s Family and Youth Services - Community Enhancement Program (\$50,000): The draft Spending Plan proposes \$50,000 in support of expansion of their Food Pantry/Diaper Hub and Out of School Time (OST) Youth Program. The funding covers food, diapers, and disposables, fuel for delivery and transportation, and programmatic supplies for the OST program, and provides support for staff salaries.

Revised PCDA Recommendations: Park Heights Master Plan Area

Increased or New

Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm (\$115,000): The PCDA voted to increase funding for this project from draft recommendation of \$95,000 to the original requested amount of \$115,000. The additional funding provides stipends of \$2,000 each for ten youth trainees at the farm’s food distribution hub. The complete funding allocation will also enable the farm to contract with up to 5 farmers from the Mid-Atlantic Black Farmers Caucus, and up to 3 Future Harvest Beginner Farmers, to grow culturally appropriate fruits, vegetables, and herbs for distribution to the Park Heights community, as well as the preparation and construction costs for a Food Hub Pick-Up and Distribution Pavilion.

Sankofa Children’s Museum of African Cultures (\$50,000): The PCDA voted to establish funding for this project at the full requested amount of \$50,000. This program was not included in the draft Spending Plan. After the draft plan release, Sankofa submitted a complete application for funding for an African Ancestry Program and Speaker Series.

Emerging Projects (\$165,000): The PCDA voted to support flexible funding for emerging projects, deferred projects, or projects in Park Heights with existing applications for which the PCDA requested additional details. The PCDA looks forward to partnering with the community

and the Mayor's Office to allocate this funding toward community development projects and programs throughout the year.

Reduced

Wheels 2 Empowerment (\$80,000): The PCDA voted to reduce funding from the draft recommended amount of \$110,000 to \$80,000. This economic and workforce development program aims to provide personal vehicles to women in Park Heights to facilitate better access to jobs and job-training opportunities. The PCDA recommended removing the funding for vehicle acquisition due to concerns about tax and insurance liability for both the City and the recipients of the vehicles.

Pimlico Terrace Neighborhood Revitalization (\$35,000): The PCDA voted to reduce funding from the draft recommended amount of \$80,000 to \$35,000. This community placemaking and beautification project aims to address cleaning, greening, and public art in Pimlico Terrace. The PCDA recommended removing the funding for murals as members felt that the proposal needs additional details about location and execution.

Eliminated

Park Heights Public Art Project (BOPA) (\$0): The PCDA voted to eliminate the draft recommended funding for \$100,000 for this project. BOPA submitted a proposal to work with the community to develop, design, and install a public sculpture in Park Heights. 64% of survey respondents expressed support for this project – the lowest support rate of any of the draft recommendations. The PCDA felt that there was not enough evidence of community need or support for this project.

Deferred

Façade Improvement Grants for Park Heights Businesses (\$0): The draft Spending Plan recommended \$60,000 for a façade improvement grant program in Park Heights. This proposal was withdrawn at the public hearing on December 19, and therefore the PCDA did not vote on this allocation at their work session. However, Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has subsequently confirmed that they can provide matching funds for facade improvement grants in Park Heights in FY25, pending selection of a community partner who will administer the original proposal for \$60,000 of Pimlico Local Impact Aid funding.

Community Recognition at the Park Heights Library (\$N/A): Finally, the PCDA discussed the importance of ensuring the new Park Heights Public Library recognizes the contributions of members of the Park Heights community. The PCDA declined to assign funding to this idea at

this time, but affirmed the importance of permanent recognition for residents, community partners, and the PCDA for their collective work to bring the Park Heights Library to life.

PCDA Recommendations: One-Mile Radius

The PCDA voted to approve all recommendations for the One-Mile Radius without revisions:

Community Organizing in the Northwest Community Planning Forum (CHAI) (\$125,000):

The PCDA voted to recommend \$125,000 to Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI) to further the implementation of the NW Community Planning Forum Master Plan. The funding will support master plan recommendations, including a pilot program for sidewalk repair grants, leadership and civic engagement training, and grants for security lighting and façade improvement for residences or businesses, among others.

Fallstaff Community Organizing and Services Support (CASA) (\$116,000): The PCDA voted to recommend \$116,000 for this community-organizing project to reach renters, working-class families, and the Fallstaff Elementary Middle School community in the Fallstaff neighborhood. CASA will provide health and social services, financial literacy, and other education and case management services.

Northwest Neighborhood Grants Program (One-Mile Radius) (\$107,000): The PCDA voted to recommend \$107,000 to support this community-based competitive grants program in the OMR. This successful program builds on past awards, including to neighborhood associations working on placemaking initiatives, capacity-building, communications projects, neighborhood organizing and events, and other community improvement efforts.

Ambassador Theater (Artspace) (\$100,000): The Ambassador Theater is being developed by the nonprofit Artspace to become an arts and cultural community center in the Liberty Wabash Area. The PCDA voted to recommend \$100,000 to support the theater’s effort to establish a community-controlled nonprofit to own and manage the Ambassador Theater in the future.

Sustaining Middle Legacy Neighborhoods (GO Northwest) (\$75,000): The PCDA recommended \$75,000 to support the GO Northwest Housing Resource Center. The goal of this project is to provide information, technical assistance, and access to resources to current and potential community residents of the Liberty-Wabash Area, to strengthen, preserve and sustain the viability and desirability of these legacy and middle neighborhoods as homeownership communities. The target neighborhoods include Howard Park, Callaway Garrison, Ashburton, and Dorchester

In conclusion, the PCDA thanks Mayor Scott for his leadership. We are confident you will give serious consideration to PCDA’s recommendations as you finalize the Spending Plan. The entire

Pimlico community looks forward to reviewing the final Spending Plan and, most importantly, to moving forward with implementation.

Sincerely,



Chris Ryer
Chair, Pimlico Community Development Authority

cc:

Faith P. Leach, Chief Administrative Officer

Justin A. Williams, Deputy Mayor for Community and Economic Development

Sean Burnett, Assistant Deputy Mayor, Community and Economic Development

Rashad Singletary, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

Nichole Stewart, Assistant Director, Department of Planning

Chad Hayes, Director of Community Planning and Revitalization, Department of Planning

Kari Nye, Northwest District Planner, Department of Planning

Tarek Bolden, Western District Planner, Department of Planning

Pimlico Community Development Authority:

Senator Antonio Hayes

Senator Jill Carter

Delegate Marlon Amprey

Ashley Bartlett

Nechama Cox

Zanes E. Cypress III

Joi Dabney

Yolanda Jiggetts

Dr. Jermaine Johnson

Mereida Goodman

Tamara McCall

R. Anthony Mills