

CB13-2020

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Broderick <Jennifer@bridges2hs.org>
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To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony support CB 13 2020
Attachments: Bridges CB13 2020 support letter may 2020.pdf

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Please see the attached letter of support to the council members for CB 13 2020 from Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. Thank you,

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Everyone carries a burden so be kind

Solving Homelessness with Housing



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May 20, 2020

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I'm writing in support of Council Bill 13-2020 introduced by Councilwoman Christiana Rigby. Bridges to Housing Stability's mission is to provide a path to self sufficiency to prevent homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County. As an organization that helped rehouse 119 households last year, we are well aware of the shortage of affordable housing in the county. We serve hundreds of working families that call Howard County home, as do their children. Yet often these neighbors must leave the county to find more affordable housing in surrounding counties because prices continue to rise in Howard.

It is important that our Council do all in it's power to help preserve affordable housing. This legislation helps give a chance for the Howard County Housing Commission, or Department of Housing and Community Development to preserve affordable housing and create additional units within existing complexes if given the opportunity to buy multi-family units. It is important that these entities that are focused on increasing and preserving affordable housing get a fair chance to do so. There is little to no new affordable housing being built in the County now, yet through this legislation there will continue to be opportunities.

The Howard County Housing Opportunities Master Plan is going to be a great tool for the County, but until the plan is complete and moved forward there might be other chances for affordable housing that may be missed if this legislation is not passed. Thousands of households struggle with rent each month, especially now, but continue to do so willingly because it means so much to them to live in this wonderful county with amazing resources, services, and schools. This legislation will allow sellers to still get a fair price for their property, while increasing the chance that housing will still be available for lower income renters.

I hope you will all support this bill.

Respectfully,

Jen Broderick, LCSW
Executive Director
Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.

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