

KWEISI MFUME
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT,
INVESTIGATIONS, AND REGULATIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
AND HUMAN SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

Pursuant to the processes outlined by the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations and the U.S. House of Representatives, I am requesting funding for the "East Baltimore Development, Inc. Phase 2B Infrastructure Project" in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI), located at 929 N. Wolfe Street, Suite 1106, Baltimore, MD 21205.

The proposed \$2,300,000 would be used to "repair and upgrade public roadways, curbs and sidewalks; update streetscaping, lighting and storm drainage systems; replace water mains and service lines; other infrastructure-related repairs and enhancements; engineering design; and construction inspection fees. This project is located in the Middle East neighborhood, now referred to as Eager Park. This neighborhood and East Baltimore is ranked highest in many of the socio-economic indices of neighborhood distress. This area struggles with high concentrations of poverty, high levels of unemployment and drug use, high crime and infant mortality rates, high lead poisoning rates, low school test scores, historic disinvestment and flight, low housing values, deteriorated housing with high levels of lead, high vacancy rates, and a weak housing market. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it invests in a neighborhood in need by making significant public infrastructure improvement that are crucial to the safety and quality of life of the residents of Eager Park and the broader East Baltimore community. Phase 2B will have a multidimensional impact by first catalyzing more development, which will make the project area more attractive to developers. This project will attract new residents and commercial tenants, and the development will also include a much-needed grocery store. The project is located in a food desert which makes it difficult for low-income and elderly residents to gain access to fresh, healthy foods. The infrastructure planned will surround the parcel EBDI plans to locate a grocery store. EBDI is working in collaboration with Baltimore City, the Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition and community residents to leverage all resources towards this important need. EBDI estimates that Eager Park currently serves about 7,500-10,000 individuals per year."

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kweisi Mfume". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kweisi Mfume
Member of
Congress