

KWEISI MFUME
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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 “Gwynns Falls Mighty Park” in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Gwynns Falls Business and Homeowners Association, located at 3061 Stafford Street, Baltimore, MD 21223.

The proposed \$535,000 would be used to “transform 6 contiguous vacant lots, which were former illegal dumps, into a vibrant new community park. Gwynns Falls is a neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore that has been historically neglected in the development strategy of Baltimore City. Gwynns Falls, and surrounding neighborhoods, have suffered from disinvestment for decades. The vast majority of residents in Gwynns Falls are working class, with a significant percent at or below the poverty level. Blighted properties and unmaintained lots are spread throughout the neighborhood. Many of the economic difficulties in this neighborhood are the direct result of redlining and other inequitable practices. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will provide the following amenities that this struggling neighborhood currently lacks, such as: safe places for children to play, a community gathering and event space, and access to fresh and healthy foods. Gwynns Falls has been traditionally overlooked by the government when it comes to investment and development. If a child from this neighborhood wants to walk to the closest playground, they will have to walk almost three-quarters of a mile. Residents themselves have come together around this project to counter these negative forces. When the Gwynns Falls Business and Homeowners Association conducted a listening campaign to identify the needs of the community, the following needs were brought up most frequently: 1) Lack of safe places for children to play; 2) Need for more community events where neighbors can get to know each other and have a shared sense of identity and purpose; 3) Limited access to healthy foods and lifestyles. These three items will all be addressed by the creation of this park. Now is the time to invest in neighborhoods like this and to provide access to the amenities that go along with healthy communities.”

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