

**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 historic "Upton Mansion" in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Afro Charities, located at 811 West Lanvale Street, Baltimore, MD 21217.

The proposed \$2,000,000 would be used to "support the renovation of the Historic Upton Mansion in Old West Baltimore to house AFRO American Newspapers' archive, its flagship offices, and the Afro Charities community outreach headquarters. The Upton Mansion has been vacant since 2006 despite its historical significance. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it would activate the building and carriage house, and provide needed community engagement services, as well as jobs. The promise of this site's activation has allowed the Upton Planning Committee to attract a developer for eight vacant homes surrounding the site. AFRO American Newspapers will locate its flagship office in the mansion and has committed to a long-term lease which will bring up to 21 employees to the site, including the Afro Charities archive staff. This project will bring an annual economic impact of \$120,000 in spending to the area and will serve as a community anchor for media, African American archival history, and educational outreach. It will also serve as an international resource for over 4 million unique artifacts documenting African American life."

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 stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Kweisi Mfume  
Member of  
Congress