



Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor

City of Cambridge

City Hall

410 Academy Street - P O Box 255
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
Phone: 410-228-4020 Fax: 410-228-4554
MD Relay (V/TTY) 711 or 1-800-735-2258
E-Mail mayor@choosecambridge.com

Agenda Item No. 06

Date: 01/28/2019 *mc*

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Maryland Heritage Area
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Cambridge to express our enthusiastic support for the Maces Lane Community Center Project. The City of Cambridge recognizes that this endeavor has the potential to help improve various conditions in our community. We hope that the Maryland Heritage Area will consider granting the request for funding to the Maces Lane Community Center Steering Committee in the amount of \$100,000.

The Maces Lane Community Center Steering Committee is comprised of members of the Good Shepherds Association, Inc.; the Maces Lane Alumni Association; and the Maryland Keymakers, all of whom share a vested interest uplifting our community. These organizations have collectively provided funding for emergency social services, college educations, and cold weather shelters. They have demonstrated admirable commitment to the community and the organizational skills to shepherd major projects for the benefit of the community.

Our City desperately needs the services that a community center can provide. In recent years, we have faced an increase in opioid overdose deaths, low test scores among students from economically-challenged backgrounds and high rates of families living below the poverty line. After school programming, such as the Boys and Girls Club, has been shown to improve students' academic performance, improve classroom behavior, decrease drug use, encourage physical activity and good dietary habits, and improve parents' economic output. The nearest Boys and Girls Club is located too far away for our residents to benefit from it and is therefore proposed as one of the most essential programs the community center would provide. In addition to projected improvement in the above metrics we anticipate this project providing substantial economic investment in the region based on its cost of construction and programming as well as adult education services focusing on financial literacy, GED acquisition, and entrepreneurship training.

Funding for this project is of critical importance to our community. The services and resources that this project will provide will greatly impact our efforts to uplift the citizens of Cambridge and we therefore hope you will give full consideration to the request for funding from the Maces Lane Community Center Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor