



Reservoir Hill . . . A Community Blooming With Opportunity!

12 February 2008

TESTIMONY TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Subcommittee on Health, Education, and Human Resources

RE: Public School Construction Program Budget and Aging Schools Program

POSITION: Support Full Funding and Completion of Facilities Survey

BY: Richard Gwynallen, Associate Director

Reservoir Hill Improvement Council (RHIC) is strongly concerned about the extent to which the physical condition of schools interferes with adequate and equitable public education.

RHIC strongly supports full funding of the Public School Construction Program Budget and Aging Schools Program. We support the allocation of \$333 million dollars for school construction. Due to the urgent needs of Baltimore City schools, we recommend that the \$400 million given for FY08 be continued for FY09. The state needs to increase or at least maintain the level of funding each year.

Furthermore, we believe that the Public School Construction Program (PSCP) must receive the necessary funds to conduct the facilities survey mandated in the *Public School Facilities Act of 2004*. This is crucial to inform legislators of the ongoing and urgent needs of school facilities, and the impact it has on providing an adequate education for students of Maryland.

We strongly feel that funds for the Aging Schools Program must remain intact so that Baltimore City schools can devote full resources to renovate or replace aging schools where conditions interfere with teaching and learning. Our own neighborhood school, John Eager Howard, benefited directly from the Aging Schools Program in the renovation of its gym and extensive painting. These projects fell below the minimum cost funded through capital improvement funds. Without the Aging Schools program John Eager Howard facilities would still be in the deplorable condition they had been in for years.

Reservoir Hill Improvement Council supports adequately planned and financed construction and preventive maintenance programs for schools.

Representing the Neighborhoods and Friends of Reservoir Hill