

**Testimony of Gordon F. May, PhD
President and CEO
Baltimore City Community College
Capital Budget Hearing**
Before the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Subcommittee on Capital Budget
March 1, 2018

Good afternoon Chairman DeGrange, Vice Chairman Peters and members of the Capital Budget Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer brief testimony on the Fiscal Year 2019 capital budget submission and recommendations for Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). I also thank Matthew Mickler with DLS for his analysis. In 2017, BCCC celebrated its seventieth year of educating residents of Baltimore City. BCCC is an anchor institution in West Baltimore, and as we continue our mission of preparing our students for jobs in today's economy we are pursuing capital projects that make the best use of our existing assets and allow us to serve the community.

BCCC is working closely with the Department of Budget and Management on the design of our campus loop road, and we appreciate DBM's cooperation as we pursue a more robust capital program in future years. We agree with the analyst's recommendation that the subcommittee approve \$365,000 in General Obligation bonds for the Liberty Campus Loop Road project.

That completes my testimony and I will now turn it over to Calvin Harris, Jr, our Vice President of Finance and Administration, for more detailed remarks

**Testimony of Calvin Harris Jr, CPA
Vice President of Administration and Finance
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Good afternoon Chairman DeGrange, Vice Chairman Peters and members of the Subcommittee. For the record, I am Calvin Harris, Vice President of Administration and Finance for Baltimore City Community College.

While our Fiscal Year 2019 capital budget request is relatively simple, I would like to share with you some progress we have made with our other capital assets and show you the vision of where BCCC is going as we anticipate our capital needs over the long term.

Regarding the Bard Building—the currently vacant property owned by BCCC in downtown Baltimore, just blocks from the Inner Harbor—BCCC is moving swiftly to redevelop the

property after years of no activity. Over a nine-month period beginning in March 2017 we issued an RFP for potential developers which resulted in three letters of interest and full proposals were submitted in June. We selected the developer last fall, signed a term sheet in December and are currently working with DGS, the Office of the Attorney General, and the developer on a full lease which we expect to bring to the Board of Public Works in June 2018. The selected developer is the Cordish Company, a developer with a long history of investment in and commitment to Baltimore City.

On our Liberty Campus, the renovations for our Administration Building are projected to be completed this spring, shortly after session adjourns in April. The BCCC Administration Building is the only building funded by the State for BCCC since 2006. One building in thirteen years — I think it's fair to say we have not kept pace with other state-funded colleges in terms of capital investment.

This brings me to my point about planning for future needs. Clearly, with no new construction since 2006 BCCC is at a disadvantage compared to all other community colleges, University of Maryland System schools, Morgan State, St. Mary's College and certainly all private Maryland Colleges. BCCC has had only \$13 million in capital funds allocated over the last 13 years versus over \$4 billion for other schools in Maryland:

- other community colleges received over \$500 million
- the University of Maryland System received over \$3 billion
- Morgan, St. Mary's and the private colleges received over \$500 million in state capital funding assistance.

As President May mentioned, BCCC is working with DBM and DGS on future construction funding needs. We were concerned to see that the 2018 Capital Improvement Program delayed initial design funding for our new library until 2023. We are looking holistically at our needs in cooperation with our partners at DBM, and we will be coming before you with much more progressive requests in future years, grounded in a rational and prudent planning process.

When we do come before you with additional needs, we respectfully ask that the subcommittee give priority to BCCC's projects in light of the history of underfunding compared to other state-supported schools I just mentioned.

Thank you for your time, and like Dr. May I agree with the analyst's recommendation and urge you to accept it. I'll be glad to answer any questions.