ROLAND PARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mark W. Hanna, Pastor
Phillip Collister-Murray, Director of Music
Esther Lee, Organist
Shayla Redfearn, Director of Christian Education
Jennifer Ronald, Director of Church Relations
Caroline Mapp, Bookkeeper
Tony Mason, Custodian
Sahara Wyatt: Childcare Coordinator

Board of Elders
Maggie Arnold (2026*)
Joyce Brown (2026*)
Laura Cochran (2028*)
Dan Evans, *Treasurer*
Meghan Friedman (2027**)
Mark W. Hanna, *Moderator*
Laura Hirschfeld (2027*)
Mary Ann Jones (2028*)
Destry Jarvis, *Clerk*
Kathy Matava (2028**)
Suzette Morgan (2027*)
Dave Patron (2028**)
Howard Rutherford (2027*)
Richard Sigler (2026**)
Chris White (2026*)

Board of Deacons
Mary Carey (2026*), *Moderator*
Carol Curtis (2028*)
Julie Evans (2028*)
Barbara Jarvis (2026**)
Rob Hirschfeld (2027*)
Carolyn Kramer (2027*)
David Patterson (2026**)
Elayne Provost (2028**)
Christine Tennies (2028**)
Susan Walkup (2027*)

* indicates 1st term **2nd term

October 7, 2024

Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Governor Moore:

We are writing in support of the letter (attached) recently sent to you from the Fund for Educational Excellence. As observed in that letter, the lack of adequate public transportation for students in Baltimore City has been shown to be a major factor in tardiness and absenteeism, ultimately resulting in too many young people who are inadequately prepared for life after high school.

Our church has worked with Western High School to help fund an attendance initiative. The school addressed this issue by increasing attendance incentives, but based on the Baltimore Banner's study (referenced in the attached letter), it is clear that a major cause of tardiness and absenteeism is lack of adequate and reliable public transportation. This is a problem that is well beyond the ability of any one school to change.

We agree with the Fund that it is unacceptable for Baltimore City students to have to wait 10 years for a highly reliable and safe public transportation capability. Our students are the future, and the majority of our students are public school students. They need and deserve funding priority and to feel respected and worthy of care and attention from their city and state government.

Therefore, we second the Fund's request that you fully fund the BMORE Bus plan and, as stated in the Fund's letter, "accelerate its timeline by reprioritizing currently scheduled capital investments." Our students should not have to wait to have the same quality of public transportation as other students in our state, so even the Fund's proposed six-year timeline of the BMORE Bus program is, in our opinion, too long. We acknowledge that there are serious budget considerations, but we also want to emphasize the Fund's statement that, "Investing in public transit to help students get to school both safely and on time promotes their future academic and career success, which in turn contributes to the long-term welfare of Baltimore and the economy of the State of Maryland."

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Mark Hanna, Pastor
Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Barbara Jarvis, Chair
Racial Justice Committee

Enclosed: Letter to Governor Moore from Fund for Educational Excellence

Cc: Fund for Educational Excellence

4801 Roland Ave
Baltimore, MD 21210

410.889.2001 phone
410.889.2000 fax