

Statement Of

Sean D. Burns, Esq.
Chairman & CEO

The Clarence H. “Du” Burns Memorial Fund, Inc.

Before The
Senate Budget and Taxation
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Monday, March 16, 2015
9:00 A.M.

Miscellaneous Grant Project:
The Clarence H. “Du” Burns Memorial Project

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to appear before you this morning on behalf of a \$200,000.00 grant to support constructing the Clarence H. “Du” Burns Memorial (“Du” Burns Memorial).

As you may know, my late uncle Clarence H. “Du” Burns holds the distinction of serving as the City of Baltimore’s first African-American Mayor as well as the first African-American President and Vice-President of the Baltimore City Council. Although it has been twelve years since Du’s passing, he remains in the hearts and minds of countless residents of the City of Baltimore and indeed the State of Maryland.

In tribute to Du’s unselfish service to the citizens of Baltimore, I along with my friend Royal Hines, founded The Clarence H. “Du” Burns Memorial Fund, Inc. (the Fund) to continue Du’s legacy of public service. The Fund, which enjoys bi-partisan support, has established an internship program for high school, undergraduate and graduate students to provide opportunities for our youth and young professionals who aspire to seek careers in the public sector. These internships will serve as the “living memorial” to “Du”. However, in addition to the “living memorial”, the Fund has made significant progress to establish a permanent memorial, within the City of Baltimore, in tribute to Du’s historic accomplishments and contributions. Thus, the reason for my appearance before you this morning.

On November 20, 2012, the City of Baltimore authorized placing the “Du” Burns memorial onto city owned property adjacent to the Maryland Science Center within Baltimore’s world renowned Inner Harbor. Specifically, the “Du” Burns Memorial will encompass a nine (9) foot tall bronze statue of the likeness of Mayor Burns and a child, as well as a memorial garden incorporating a seat wall, lighting and plaques informing visitors of Mayor Burns’ contributions to the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. I am pleased to inform you that the bronze statue, and focal point of the memorial, has been fabricated. The statue was created by famed sculptor/portrait painter

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(and Maryland resident) Simmie Knox, best known for his historic official White House portraits of former President William Jefferson Clinton and former U.S. Secretary of State and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

However, to complete the memorial project, the Fund requires an additional Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00). Specifically, the additional funding will be utilized to complete the remaining memorial components such as constructing and installing the memorial garden, paving, bronze plaques, seat wall, lighting and erecting the statue within the memorial site. Words alone cannot express our profound gratitude for the generous private matching gift of Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) from the Hackerman Foundation to ensure completion of this project.

The "Du" Burns Memorial will serve as a catalyst to future generations to learn of Mayor Burns' historic and trailblazing accomplishments, and the countless contributions he has made to the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. Thus, this grant reaffirms the State of Maryland's commitment to acknowledging and honoring leaders who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of its citizens and communities.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Directors of The Clarence H. "Du" Burns Memorial Fund, Inc., I humbly request your favorable consideration.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee.

Statement Of

Sean D. Burns, Esq.
Chairman & CEO

The Clarence H. “Du” Burns Memorial Fund, Inc.

Before The
House Appropriations
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Monday, March 16, 2015
10:00 A.M.

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