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MAYOR

Office of Government Relations
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 823

February 28, 2020

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Matthew Stegman, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 823 - Sheriff of Baltimore City - Salaries and Collective Bargaining

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** Senate Bill (SB) 823.

SB 823 bill authorizes full-time sworn law enforcement officers who are deputy sheriffs at a certain rank or below as well as court security officers in the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office to bargain collectively. While it includes several provisions dealing with the procedures and processes for how agreements are to be bargained for, as drafted, it is not consistent with the collective bargaining processes and procedures that currently exist in the City of Baltimore. Though it includes a provision for arbitration when certain items reach an impasse, the BCA understands non of the arbitration provisions are binding.

The BCA has been in discussions with the Sheriff of Baltimore City, the bill sponsor, as well as members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22 about amendment language to properly align SB 823 with the policies and procedures currently in place for other bargaining units in Baltimore City. The BCA advises that as long as the amendments address these issues and allow for the BCA to have a seat at the negotiating table and decision making power during the negotiation—which is sensible, given that the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office is wholly funded through the City's Ordinance of Estimates each year—and that any provisions relating to arbitration are not binding upon the BCA, then the BCA would support passage of SB 823. The BCA looks forward to working with all parties to review amendments consistent with our agreement in concept.

We respectfully request a **favorable with amendment** report on SB 823.