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MAYOR

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SB 1

March 5, 2021

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: SENTATE BILL 1 – Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Funding

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1.

SB 1 seeks to resolve the over a decade long lawsuit under the Coalition for Excellence and Equity in *Maryland Higher Education, et al., v. Maryland Higher Education Commission, et al* by providing the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) of Maryland with \$577 million over 10 years. The bill also creates an HBCU Reserve Fund to hold unused funds and establishes a new unit in the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to review new academic programs.

Baltimore City is proud to be home to two of the state's four HBCUs - Morgan State University and Coppin State University. The money would be used to help the HBCUs develop unique academic programs and to hire quality faculty members so that they can compete and attract students of all races. Funds would also go to more scholarships and financial aid to help with enrollment and marketing efforts to promote the schools and erase the stigma that they are inferior or less academically challenging

The funding helps provide a path forward from the wrong of inequities that burdened the HBCUs in Baltimore City and around the State.

Accordingly, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 1.