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MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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HB0492

March 12, 2024

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 492 – Speed Monitoring Systems on Interstate 83 - Unpaid and Overdue Citations
POSITION: Support with Amendment

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 492 with the amendment proposed by the sponsor allowing for the immobilization of vehicles in violation.

HB 492 would require Baltimore City to report to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) vehicles that have amassed over \$250 in unpaid, overdue moving violations recorded by Interstate 83 (I-83) speed cameras. An amendment introduced by Delegate Rosenberg would allow the City to immobilize vehicles that exceed this threshold. The legislation would require these offenders to be documented and reported to the MVA, improving accountability and collaboration. Further, the amendment would mirror the City's authority to immobilize vehicles with three or more overdue parking violations.

The I-83 speed camera program has allowed the City to reduce speeding and crashes along the highway since implementation in mid-2022. However, some motorists have been slow to change their behavior and continue to travel at dangerous speeds.

As amended, HB 492 would allow for the immobilization of these offenders and create several benefits. For instance, out of state drivers may feel little urgency to address or avoid accruing I-83 speed camera citations as we do not benefit from reciprocity with several surrounding states. In those instances, immobilization could present a strong deterrent to drivers outside the jurisdiction of the Maryland MVA. Frequent and repeated violation of speed camera law is indicative of a general disregard for following the laws on our roads and could lead to serious injury or death due to a potential crash if not properly addressed. Allowing immobilization of vehicles accruing a significant number of speed violations on I-83 will improve road safety for all motorists.

In addition to acting as a deterrent, immobilization authority and improved collaboration between the City and the MVA could lead to an increase to I-83 citation collection rates. This would generate additional funding which is by law reserved for improvements along the highway, therefore bolstering the City's efforts to improve safety and driving conditions.

The BCA believes that the provisions of HB 492 and its amendments would deter unsafe driving in Baltimore City and contribute to further reductions in crashes along Interstate 83.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable with amendment** report on HB 492.

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