



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter**  
**In Favor of SB0727 – Motor Vehicle Administration Records - Access**  
**to Digital Photographic Images and Signatures - Baltimore City**  
**Agencies**

**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**On February 28<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:**

The purpose of Senate Bill 0727 is to include in the definition of “criminal justice agency” any agency the Mayor of Baltimore City declares necessary to enforce Maryland’s illegal dumping and litter control law, which specifically includes the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Within DHCD, there is a Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and deeming DHCD a “criminal justice agency” would allow for the MVA to share digital images of a suspect’s drivers license photo in illegal dumping cases with the SIU.

Since 2005, the SIU of the DHCD has been authorized to install surveillance systems at dumping sites to enforce provisions of the State’s illegal dumping law. All members of the SIU are sworn Special Enforcement Officers and are appointed by the Baltimore Police Commissioner as a condition of employment within the unit.

Currently, SIU investigators currently have access to MVA driver and vehicle records, which are used to identify individuals and vehicles used in illegal dumping as well as in locating the individuals, estates, landlords, and agents associated with the properties that DHCD is seeking to investigate and/or serve. But, because it is unclear whether or not the DHCD is a "criminal justice agency", the MVA cannot share driver's license photos with the SIU per a specific provision of the Maryland Transportation Article which specifies who the MVA can share digital photos with.

If the SIU were to be given access to these drivers license photos, it would not only assist SIU investigators with identifying suspects in illegal dumping cases but would also assist them with positively identifying individuals being served subpoenas for upcoming court hearings for DHCD.

As such, I urge this committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 0727.

Respectfully,

Jill P. Carter