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MAYOR

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SB0600

March 20, 2025

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 600 – Baltimore City - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 600.

SB 600 would authorize the Baltimore City Council to establish a stop sign monitoring pilot program in school zones in the 45th Legislative District in Baltimore City. It also requires that the fines collected from this pilot program by the City or the Courts must be used for youth programming and services for youth living in or attending school in the 45th Legislative District.

The ability for our students to safely travel to and from school each day is of the utmost importance to the BCA and this legislation would provide an additional tool to ensure motorists are following all rules and regulations for our roads. This tool would work in conjunction with the school zone speed enforcement program to ensure that not only are motorists traveling at safe rates of speed around our schools but are also stopping their vehicles when at an intersection that includes a stop sign. Baltimore City, like many major cities, has a significant portion of our student population that uses public transportation or walks to school each day. The City has been implementing through its Complete Streets Manual, many significant improvements to support multi-modal transportation. With additional pedestrians and cyclists on our roadways, ensuring motorists are coming to full and complete stops at stop signs is increasingly important.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation performed an analysis of non-motorist crashes within city limits from January 1, 2021, to December 21, 2023. Within that time frame there were 253 instances of those incidents occurring at or near intersections with stop signs. Separately, between 2019 and 2023 there were 971 crashes that occurred within 500 feet of a school. While we cannot disaggregate the crashes near schools to those taking place at intersections with stop signs, the data suggests that additional safety measures would be beneficial in these areas. By allowing the City to enact local legislation to establish a stop sign monitoring program, we will be able to better protect our students as they travel to and from school each day.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 600.