



Office of The Mayor Celina R. Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMD.org

Date: February 18, 2026

Re: House Bill 351 - Public Safety - Federal Agents - Digital Unmasking

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the City of Mount Rainier, we respectfully submit this letter in support of **House Bill 351**, legislation that establishes a clear, lawful process for preserving identifying digital information in cases involving credible allegations of federal agent misconduct.

Mount Rainier is a diverse, close-knit municipality that places a high value on civil rights, public trust in government, and transparency in law enforcement. Our residents expect that when serious allegations arise, particularly those involving excessive force, unlawful detention, or potential civil rights violations, there are appropriate mechanisms in place to preserve evidence and ensure accountability. HB 351 provides such a mechanism while maintaining important judicial safeguards.

For municipalities like Mount Rainier, HB 351 reinforces confidence that allegations involving federal law enforcement activity within our communities can be reviewed responsibly, transparently, and in accordance with the rule of law. Preserving relevant digital evidence at the outset of a complaint helps ensure that investigations are not compromised by the loss of time-sensitive data, while still respecting constitutional protections and judicial oversight.

The City of Mount Rainier appreciates the General Assembly's continued efforts to strengthen accountability frameworks and uphold civil liberties across Maryland. For these reasons, we urge the Judiciary Committee to issue a **favorable report on House Bill 351**.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on public safety and community trust. Please feel free to contact me at 301-985-6585 or via email MayorBenitez@MountRainierMd.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Celina R. Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier.