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MAYOR

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**HB 0717**

February 19, 2026

**TO:** Members of the House Ways & Means Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 717 - Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) supports House Bill (HB) 717.

HB 717 would add the ability for an organization that is affiliated with a team that plays in Baltimore and is a part of the National Football League to the types of organizations authorized to conduct raffles. The legislation would define the geographic boundaries within which those raffles would be able to be conducted, alter the expiration timeline for permits issued to organizations, and remove the existing sunset on the ability of certain organizations to hold these raffles.

The BCA supports the removal of the sunset on the existing law and the addition of an organization affiliated with the Baltimore Ravens to conduct similar raffles. The raffles that have been underway at Oriole Park at Camden Yards have been successful and help to increase engagement at baseball games as well as raising money for charity.

This bill would not have a large fiscal or operational impact on City operations, and we believe it will have a positive impact on the City and region.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 717.