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County Executive

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Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 161**

TITLE: Crimes - Hate Crimes - Use of an Item or a Symbol to Threaten or Intimidate

SPONSOR: Senator Elfreth

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 29, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 161 – Crimes - Hate Crimes - Use of an Item or a Symbol to Threaten or Intimidate. This bill prohibits person from placing or inscribing an item or a symbol, including a noose or swastika, on any public or private property with the intent to threaten or intimidate any person or group of persons.

In Baltimore County, we believe our strength is our diversity. The county strives to ensure that our diverse communities are safe havens from vile and hateful attacks that target individuals based on their race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin. With hate crimes on the rise nationally, Baltimore County encourages the State to strengthen its laws to protect those who are most frequently targeted by these acts. As such, Baltimore County is supportive of SB 161, which specifies that the use of certain symbols or items is considered to be a hate crime.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests **FAVORABLE** report on SB 161. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.