CORY V. MCCRAY Legislative District 45 Baltimore City

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee Health and Human Services Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 364

Bill Title: Baltimore City – Civil Claims Against Law Enforcement Officers of an Institution of Higher Education – Prohibition Against Nondisclosure Provision in Settlement Agreement

Hearing Date: January 22, 2021 - Baltimore City Senate Delegation

I write to you today in **<u>support</u>** of Senate Bill 364. For nearly a decade the City of Baltimore has been working to reimagine policing in our City. Recognizing this, the City has taken historic steps to reform the Baltimore City Police Department, including entering a consent decree with the United States Department of Justice. A concern remained, however, regarding the matter of accountability of sworn law enforcement officers who serve our Institutions of Higher Education.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the use or enforcement of a confidentiality agreement or nondisclosure provision in a settlement agreement – or any other release of liability between parties in a claim of misconduct against a law enforcement officer serving a higher education institution in Baltimore City.

If enacted, this bill would take effect on October 1, 2021 and, would not have any effect on any agreement that has already been executed before the effective date.

In efforts to ensure that every law enforcement officer in the City of Baltimore has a level of accountability while serving, we hope that you will move for a **<u>favorable</u>** report of Senate Bill 364.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory V. McCray State Senator