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HB 1081

March 10, 2022

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 1081 - Baltimore City – Vehicle Laws – Towing

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1081.

HB 1081 looks to further specify the City's authority to tow vehicles blocking driveways, alleys, transit lanes, and parking facilities by amending Article II – General Powers of the Baltimore City Charter.

The increased clarity surrounding towing authority resulting from HB 1081 will provide Baltimore City the opportunity to strengthen local towing laws and regulations. Any change to local law involving towing would still be subject to existing state towing laws. Upon the adoption of HB 1081, the towing authority specified within the Baltimore City Charter will support local efforts to address the negative impacts associated with vehicles blocking access to and from public right-of-way. Ensuring open access to City roads, alleys, transit lanes, parking facilities, and private driveways connected to public right-of-way is a critical component to having a reliable and efficient transportation network.

Baltimore City Department of Transportation is fully in support of HB 1081 and has committed to working with BCA following the bill's adoption to develop stronger local towing laws designed to keep the City's transportation network open and free of obstruction.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1081.