



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 565

March 15, 2022

TO: Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 565 – Indigenous Peoples' Day - Rule of Interpretation and Replacement of Columbus Day

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 565.

HB 565 would replace references in law to Columbus Day with references to Indigenous Peoples' Day, as a holiday that would be observed on the same and current day that Columbus Day is currently observed.

In November of 2020, the Baltimore City Council passed City Ordinance 20-0608 - Indigenous Peoples' Day. Under the leadership of then Council President Brandon Scott, the bill was heard and positively received. Like the council ordinance, HB 565 does not alter the business calendar and does not create an additional legal holiday, so it should not result in any expenses or require additional resources on the City of Baltimore.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 565.