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MAYOR

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SB 389

April 8, 2022

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: SB 389 Public Safety - Maryland Police Accountability Act Revisions and Clarifications

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 389.

Senate Bill 389 clarifies that the uniform disciplinary matrix for use by each law enforcement agency in the State developed by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) shall be applicable to all matters that may result in the discipline of a police officer. Additionally, SB389 sets an effective date of October 1st, 2022 for provisions of the Police Accountability Act of 2021.

The BCA believes all types of allegations of police misconduct, whether they began internally within the Baltimore Police Department, or externally by a civilian, should be heard through the civilian-led Police Accountability Board model, as it will lead to more consistency in outcomes of police misconduct. Additionally, the October 1st timeline extension for implementation will allow for the incorporation of the uniform disciplinary matrix that the MPTSC is still finalizing through regulations. It will also allow for more thorough educational outreach to Baltimore City residents regarding the historic nature of the Police Accountability Act of 2021 and the opportunities for meaningful civilian engagement in the process of holding police officers accused of misconduct accountable.

For these reasons we respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 389.

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