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**SB 3**

January 19, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 0003 – 9–8–8 Trust Fund – Funding

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 3.

SB 3 establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2025 of \$12.0 million to the 9-8-8 Trust Fund. Diversion from 9-1-1 and access to expanded 9-8-8 services are vital, and the BCA supports dedicated and expanded funding for this service.

In 2022, The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) designated 9-8-8 as the State's behavioral health crisis hotline. The maintenance of 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for a suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline, and the coordination and delivery of the continuum of behavioral health crisis response services in the State, is vital to ensuring that those experiencing behavioral health crises receive the help that they need. Diversion from 9-1-1 and access to 9-8-8 services provides crucial resources for de-escalating and resolving crises.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 3.