



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

HB 391

February 16, 2023

TO: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 391 – Vehicle Laws - Parking Enforcement - Citations

POSITION: Oppose

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill 391.

HB 391 requires that parking citations include a box which recipients may tick to indicate that the cited registration plates do not match the vehicle described in the citation. The citation is then returned to the issuer, who must then verify that the right vehicle was cited. This process would impede our ability to deliver an acceptable level of parking enforcement while adding cost and complication to an already time and staff-intensive process.

The legislation establishes a review process which places the onus on the citing agency and relieves motorists from what can be a daunting appeal process. However, the current state of parking enforcement is complex and time consuming. At this time, we are concerned about the impacts of this bill for the following reasons:

- Enforcement officers do not have the ability to run registration plates on the field.
- Staff shortages and technology barriers pose challenges to on-site plate verification.
- Localities need time and support to modernize parking enforcement efforts.
- The legislation could contribute to a backlog of contested citations.
- City agencies strive to prevent invalid citations and time-consuming court appeals.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request an **unfavorable** report on HB 391. Once again, we ask that you consider the potential negative ramifications of this bill on parking enforcement operations in Baltimore City and both counties and municipalities statewide.