



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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

**SB 788**

March 9, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

**RE:** Senate Bill 788 – Criminal Procedure – Victim Compensation – Alterations

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 788.

SB 788 expands eligibility for awards from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) and establishes a mandated annual appropriation of \$7 million to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF). It addresses important gaps in the existing compensation process by expanding eligibility to allow awards to deserving victim categories including a victim who is a relative of the offender or was living with the offender as a family member or household member at the time of injury or death; and domestic partners or the dependent of a victim under specified circumstances. By expanding applicability of CICB and CICF, the legislation will make victim compensation more inclusive and better meet the needs of victims across the state.

The CICB is designed to provide support to victims, families of victims, and survivors of violent crimes. Recipients of this fund are able to pay for funeral expenses, afford alternative means of housing in instances of intimate partner violence, and generally reset and support feelings of safety in the world. Additionally, in an effort to be more equitable, the Board should reflect the breadth of diversity present in the residents of this State.

This good sense bill is a good step in the right direction to protect vulnerable Marylanders from being further victimized and instead presenting them with opportunities towards stabilization.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 788.