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BILL NO.: **SB 753**

TITLE: Public Safety – Firearm Background Checks, Victim Notification, and the Maryland State Police Gun Center

SPONSOR: Senator Hettleman

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORTS**

DATE: February 27, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 753 – Public Safety – Firearm Background Checks, Victim Notification, and the Maryland State Police Gun Center. This legislation will require the Maryland State Police to notify the Maryland Gun Center if the State Police denies an individual’s application to purchase a firearm following a background check. Furthermore, SB 753 requires local law enforcement agencies to be notified by the Maryland Gun Center that an application to purchase a firearm has been denied.

If the individual who has been denied to purchase a firearm is subject to a restraining order, the local law enforcement agency must notify the victim of the individual under that restraining order. By allowing victims of domestic violence and dangerous individuals to be notified when their abuser is attempting to purchase a firearm, these victims can be better protected by our state systems. Law enforcement will resultingly be able to take steps to keep the victim of this individual as safe as possible. In conjunction with additional firearm reforms recently passed by the State of Maryland and Baltimore County, SB 753 will keep our neighborhoods safe and prevent all too common incidents of gun violence- especially those incidents targeting previous victims of domestic violence.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 753 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.