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SB0324

February 2, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 324 – Handgun Permits – Accidental Discharge & Training
Requirements

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) 324.

This bill requires a handgun permit holder, if there is an "accidental discharge" by the person, to
register for a certified firearms safety training course within 90 days of the incident and to
successfully complete the course within six months after the incident. The Secretary of State Police
(1) must revoke the handgun permit of a person who fails to satisfy those requirements, with
specified written notice, and (2) may reinstate the permit if the person satisfies the training course
requirements. The bill requires (1) each law enforcement agency to report information relating to
accidental discharges to the Maryland State Police Gun Center and (2) the Gun Center to report all
accidental discharges to the Department of State Police's (DSP) Licensing Division.

The unintentional discharge of a weapon can lead to fatal injuries. The National Safety Council
has reported that approximately 1% of all gun deaths are preventable unintentional discharges.
According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 45,000 people
die from firearms injuries every year. That means more than one person dies from an unintentional
firearm discharge every day.

Firearm safety is paramount to preventing these deaths. The certified firearms training course
specified in the legislation includes detailed classroom instruction and an orientation component
that demonstrates the person's safe operation and handling of a firearm.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 324.