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BILL NO.: **SB 1097**

TITLE: **Public Safety – Gun Buyback Programs – Destruction of Firearms**

SPONSOR: **Chairman Smith**

COMMITTEE: **Judicial Proceedings**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 27, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1097 – Public Safety – Gun Buyback Programs – Destruction of Firearms, which will require any private or public entity that provides a gun buyback program to destroy the entire firearm if that firearm is purchased as a part of this program.

Gun buyback programs are intended to remove guns and all of its components from the general public, decreasing the possibility of that weapon being involved in a crime or perpetuating violence in our communities. Under federal law “firearms” are defined as only including the frame or receiver component. As a result, some companies, which state that they accept and destroy firearms when received from gun buyback programs, disassemble the gun and re-sell parts of the weapon. These companies destroy the firearm frame, the only part that is federally required to “destroy the firearm,” and proceed to sell the remaining parts. It is technically legal for these companies to do so as these parts, such as the barrel or the trigger mechanism, do not fall under the federal definition of “firearm.” As a result, these parts can be easily recreated into another complete firearm simply by purchasing another frame or creating one with the use of a 3D printer. SB 1097 will address this situation by requiring “all of the components” of the firearm to be destroyed. This legislation will complement other common sense firearm reforms, such as Baltimore County’s Secure All Firearms Effectively (SAFE) Act, to keep these weapons off of our streets and out of our neighborhoods.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 1097 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.