HB 364: Prince George's County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Judicial Proceedings Committee Brendan Wray - FAVORABLE

March 25, 2024

Chair and Committee Members,

We know the terrible toll that reckless and negligent driving has taken on Prince George's County residents and visitors, including in the November 20 deaths of 5-year-old Sky Sosa and 10-year-old Shalom Mbah, who were hit by a motor vehicle and killed near their elementary school in Riverdale Park. Prince George's County experienced 129 road fatalities 2023 including 39 pedestrians and 3 bicyclists, by far the worst record in the state. This road carnage must end.

The State of Maryland and Prince George's County must increase their investments in safe transportation infrastructure and at the same time, we must do all we can to educate drivers and provide an incentive for safe driving, via expanded, appropriate traffic enforcement. HB364 would add a safe-streets enforcement tool to the Prince George's County's toolbox.

I note that automated enforcement is far more equitable– and inexpensive and scalable– than in-person police enforcement, with no potential for dangerous escalation of traffic stops or discrimination against Black and brown drivers.

Please advance HB364, to promote safe streets, Vision Zero, and equitable enforcement, and in the blessed memories of Sky Sosa and Shalom Mbah. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Brendan Wray College Park, MD