

BALTIMORE ORIOLES



2023 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 2016 A.L. WILD CARD | 2014 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 2012 A.L. WILD CARD | 1997 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 1996 A.L. WILD CARD | 1983 WORLD CHAMPS | 1979 A.L. CHAMPS | 1974 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 1973 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 1971 A.L. CHAMPS | 1970 WORLD CHAMPS | 1969 A.L. CHAMPS | 1966 WORLD CHAMPS

To: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair of Senate Budget & Tax Committee

RE: **Support** for SB341 - Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With a Professional Major League Baseball Team

The Baltimore Orioles **SUPPORT** SB341 - Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With a Professional Major League Baseball Team FOR the purpose of authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional major league baseball team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles; requiring the organization to obtain a permit to conduct raffles from an agency designated by the Baltimore City government; authorizing a raffle ticket to be sold and received on an electronic device located within the geographical boundaries of Baltimore City; and generally relating to raffles in Baltimore City.

Established in 1965, The Baltimore Orioles Foundation, a private 501(c)3, is renowned for touching all corners of Birdland through its charitable giving. Organizations like the American Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter, ShareBaby, Inc., and James Mosher Baseball are just a few of the examples of organizations that have benefitted from the Foundation. Additionally, in 2023, The Baltimore Orioles Foundation pledged \$5 million to Baltimore City based, CollegeBound, Inc., an organization that helps Baltimore City public-schools students attend and afford college tuition.

In the beginning of the 2024 season, The Baltimore Orioles were one of only two Major League Baseball organizations that did not conduct 50/50 raffles. Recognizing a missed opportunity to do more in its communities, while giving fans an opportunity they enjoy, the organization begin researching how to conduct these raffles. The research found that current State Law allows an entity 12 raffles a year, while the Major League Baseball schedule has a minimum of 81 home game per season.

In July of 2024, The Baltimore Orioles established an in park 50/50 raffle that would give fans the ability to both donate to the Foundation and enter the chance to win the raffle, allowing the Foundation to do more in our communities. Our first non-profit raffle recipient was Elev8 Baltimore, a city non-profit that “partners with schools, families and the community to ensure that every student is prepared for high school, college career and life.” Partnering with Elev8 was apropos as they are the partner of The Baltimore Orioles in the organization’s highest profile and highly regarded relationship with Harlem Park Elementary School and the neighborhood of Harlem Park.

While the organization currently identifies numerous organizations to provide funding through the raffle, it is the goal of The Baltimore Orioles Foundation to use the funds acquired through the raffle to strategically and thoughtfully provide the greatest possible positive impact for the City of Baltimore and the greater region, through its pillars of “Play” through the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Program, “Inner City Health Disparities”, and “Education,” which includes its continuing efforts to support Harlem Park and the CollegeBound Foundation.

SB341 would amend the statute, allowing The Baltimore Orioles to conduct 50/50 raffles for every home game, and allow fans who are located within the City of Baltimore (using geofence technology) to participate in these 50/50 raffles on game days one hour before the game through the 7th inning.

Using smartphones and geofencing has become commonplace in MLB. Teams like the Cleveland Guardians allow fans to purchase tickets from anywhere in the State of Ohio. Fans interested in participating in the 50/50 raffle for the Toronto Blue Jays need to be physically located within the province of Ontario or the province of Nova Scotia at the time of purchase.

The Baltimore Orioles urge a **FAVORABLE** report.