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MAYOR

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**HB 0343**

February 21, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill HB 0343 – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 343.

HB 343 enhances the efficiency and reliability of speed monitoring enforcement by authorizing trained technicians, in addition to law enforcement officers, to review and certify speed monitoring system violations. Additionally, the bill establishes a reasonable training requirement for both law enforcement officers and technicians before they can certify violation certificates.

This legislation strengthens the integrity of automated speed enforcement by ensuring that those responsible for reviewing and certifying violations have received proper training. By allowing qualified technicians to perform this role, HB 343 alleviates the administrative burden on law enforcement agencies, enabling officers to focus on other critical public safety duties while maintaining the effectiveness of speed monitoring systems.

Currently, Baltimore City's photo enforcement citation undergo through three layers of verification prior to final issuance. They are first reviewed by the camera contractor, before proceeding to quality assurance analysts within the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. It is only after these steps are complete that citations are reviewed and certified by the Baltimore Police Department. These redundant steps are in place to ensure the quality and integrity of the program. As a result, we do not estimate any additional costs associated with processing citations with reduced Police involvement.

	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026	Fiscal 2027	Fiscal 2028	Fiscal 2029
Estimated Technician Costs <i>Includes Salary, Overtime, and OPCs</i>	\$788,451	\$812,104	\$836,467	\$861,561	\$887,408
Estimated Savings Realized (BPD OT) <i>Related to reduction of BPD Overtime for review</i>	(\$1,344,796)	(\$1,398,588)	(\$1,454,531)	(\$1,512,712)	(\$1,573,221)
<b>Net (Savings Realized)</b>	<b>(\$556,345)</b>	<b>(\$586,484)</b>	<b>(\$618,064)</b>	<b>(\$651,151)</b>	<b>(\$685,813)</b>

In Fiscal year 2023, sworn police officer overtime expenses relating to the review of traffic camera violations amounted to \$1.57 million. On average, the Baltimore Police Department uses 1,497 of overtime hours per month with an average overtime rate of \$74.90/hour.

Contingent on the passage of SB 500/HB 913, the City plans to add two additional speed cameras to Interstate 83; we estimate this would require the hiring of one additional quality assurance analyst by the Department of Transportation.

Speed monitoring systems have proven to be an essential tool in reducing speeding and improving roadway safety. The procedural improvements introduced in HB 343 ensure that the review and certification process remain precise, efficient, and transparent, maintaining public confidence in automated enforcement.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 343.