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MAYOR

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SB600

February 13, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 600 – Baltimore City - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 600.

SB 600 would authorize the Baltimore City Council to establish a stop sign monitoring program in school zones in Baltimore City. The ability for our students to safely travel to and from school each day is of the utmost importance to the BCA and this legislation would provide an additional tool to ensure motorists are following all rules and regulations for our roads. This tool would work in conjunction with the school zone speed enforcement program to ensure that not only are motorists traveling at safe rates of speed around our schools but are also stopping their vehicles when at an intersection that includes a stop sign. Baltimore City, like many major cities, has a significant portion of our student population that uses public transportation or walks to school each day. The City has been implementing through its Complete Streets Manual, many significant improvements to support multi-modal transportation. With additional pedestrians and cyclists on our roadways, ensuring motorists are coming to full and complete stops at stop signs is increasingly important.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation performed an analysis of non-motorist crashes within city limits from January 1, 2021 to December 21, 2023. Within that time frame there were 253 instances of those incidents occurring at or near intersections with stop signs. More recently, we have had several pedestrians struck by vehicles. While we do not have specific data concerning incidents within school zones, there have been several incidents over the last few years and our student population includes some of our most vulnerable residents. By allowing the City to enact local legislation to establish a stop sign monitoring program, we will be able to better protect our students as they travel to and from school each day.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 600.