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HB 748

March 25, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: HB 748 - Municipalities – Enforcement Officers – Body–Worn Cameras

POSITION: **Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that my Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 748.

HB 748 would add municipal enforcement officers to the definition of law enforcement officers for the purpose of allowing these enforcement officers to use body–worn camera during the course of the officers' duties.

Baltimore City has three types of enforcement officers who perform various duties throughout the city that put them in direct contact with residents in situations that can sometimes lead to negative interactions. These officers conduct traffic enforcement for large scale events alongside sworn officers where tens of thousands of individuals are entering or leaving venues; parking enforcement including overnight enforcement; animal control where pet owners may become aggressive toward those officers; and other enforcement officers who conduct enforcement for various types of housing violations.

The Baltimore City municipal workforce is comprised largely of people of color. This fact holds true for special officers, parking officers, and traffic officers, the majority of whom are women of color. The assault of these critical workers poses a substantial challenge to recruitment and staff morale, which in turn hurts the level of service the City can provide to residents. Parking officers are particularly prone to confrontation and conflict due to the controversial nature of their work—no one is happy to receive a parking ticket. Parking officers are required to disengage when disputes arise, but this does not ensure the safety of officers.

By providing municipal enforcement officers the ability to have body-worn cameras, we can help to ensure their safety in performing their duties.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 748.