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SB 402

February 4, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: SB 0402 -Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maximum Penalty Increase

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) 402.

Senate Bill 402 authorizes Baltimore City to increase the penalty amount for speed monitoring system violations from \$40 to \$60. This legislation is one of the Baltimore City Administration's priorities for the 2025 General Assembly session. Automated citations are one mechanism by which we encourage motorists to travel at safe rates of speed. The implementation of cameras throughout the City has greatly reduced the number of crashes and other driver related incidents where those cameras are located. SB 402 seeks to establish a secondary mechanism to deter unsafe driving by increasing the amount of the penalty associated with the infraction. By increasing the cost of a citation, the Administration seeks to further modify motorist behavior and encourage safe road travel within our city's roadways.

During 2024, the City issued more than 426,000 citations for speed monitored violations. While the speed camera programs in Baltimore City are focused on behavior modification, there are some potential monetary benefits from increasing the penalty if behavior does not change. Based on data from last year, if the proposed increase value of the violation has no impact on driver's behavior, it is estimated that the City could potentially generate \$6.1 million in additional revenues per year if the City chooses to increase by \$20 the existing penalty on speed monitoring violations. Regardless of any potential positive monetary impact, our aim is for motorist behavior to improve and provide safer roadways for all who travel within our city.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 402.