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MAYOR

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SB761

March 5, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 761 - Motor Vehicles - Installment Payment Plans - Automated Enforcement

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) 761.

SB 761 would allow individuals who amass at least \$150 in unpaid automated citations to enter into installment for payment over time with the district or circuit courts.

Currently, state law allows someone who owes at least \$150 in unpaid parking citations to enter into a payment plan for those unpaid citations, however, automated citations are not eligible for these payment plans. In previous years, the BCA introduced legislation to help address the issue of "chronic offenders" who are individuals who amass more than \$1,000 in unpaid automatic citations on their vehicles. Currently there are over 2,000 vehicles that fall under this category in Baltimore City alone. We understand that some individuals may not be able to pay off their citations in a timely manner and this can lead to their inability to re-register their vehicle. While the BCA would like to ensure that motorists are reducing their speed along our roadways and follow all rules and regulations of using our roads, we would also like to ensure that we are not overburdening our residents by not providing an opportunity for them to pay automated citations over time in a similar manner to parking citations.

By providing vehicle owners with an opportunity to pay their unpaid citations over time rather than feeling overburdened by citations without a clear path toward resolving those violations, we hope that more vehicle owners will increase compliance with all laws and regulations related to safely and responsibly driving on all local and state roads.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 761.