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SB 501

February 4, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: SB 0501 -Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring System Citations - Late Fees
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) 501.

Senate Bill 501 authorizes the City to impose a late fee on speed monitoring system citations that are paid after the due date. This bill strengthens Baltimore City's ability to enforce speed monitoring system violations by allowing the assessment of late fees for unpaid citations. The legislation ensures greater compliance, improves collection rates, and enhances public safety by reinforcing the financial accountability of violators. Currently, jurisdictions are able to impose late fees for unpaid parking citations but State law is silent as to whether late fees may be imposed for automated citations.

Between July 17, 2017 and January 31, 2025, Baltimore City has issued a total of 5,761,153 speed monitoring system violations, with only 4,155,519 violations paid, resulting in a collection rate of 71.1%. This leaves 1,605,634 unpaid violations, contributing to revenue losses and reducing the effectiveness of enforcement efforts.

Without this bill, Baltimore City lacks the authority to enforce late fees, leaving a significant portion of fines unpaid. Implementing late fees will incentivize violators to settle their penalties in a timely manner, enhance collection rates, and ensure the city can continue funding critical public safety initiatives.

By ensuring greater financial accountability, this bill enhances enforcement efforts, improves compliance, and strengthens Baltimore City's commitment to safer roads.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 501.