



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 283**

January 28, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Judiciary Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill 283 – Public Safety – Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 283.

HB 283 will help to increase safety in high-crime areas by providing neighborhood residents with doorbell cameras or security systems with doorbell cameras. This bill represents an important state commitment toward helping to make neighborhoods safer in areas of highest need. In the high-crime areas that are the focus of this legislation, cost is a major obstacle for many residents who would benefit from doorbell cameras.

In addition to reinforcing household safety, doorbell cameras have the potential to assist with investigations of nearby crimes. This legislation takes the important steps of providing for the installation of cameras at no cost to residents; engaging community organizations and residents to promote community participation in the Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program; and providing training for residents on the use of doorbell cameras as well as the submission of video captured by cameras to law enforcement. Baltimore City currently has a program offering vouchers and rebates to residents for security cameras. This legislation will build on the existing program and help to increase usage of doorbell cameras in high-crime areas in Baltimore and statewide.

This bill expands on the previously introduced HB 1045 by requiring the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services and law enforcement to submit reports on program outcomes including the number of participants, impact on crime rates, and number of crimes solved with footage provided by residents. HB 283 retains provisions from HB 1045 protecting residents' privacy and protecting participants from being compelled to provide video footage to law enforcement.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 283.