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MAYOR

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HB0836

February 25, 2025

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

RE: House Bill 836 – County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct

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) 836 - County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct.

HB 836 authorizes local governing bodies, by local law, to grant their police accountability boards the authority to exercise investigatory and subpoena powers. Under this legislation, police accountability boards may conduct a concurrent investigation on a complaint of police misconduct with the relevant law enforcement agency.

Providing subpoena power to police accountability boards will make information transfer between the police accountability boards and law enforcement agencies more efficient, as the requests would no longer fall within the Maryland Public Information Act - requiring extensive document review before production. Having subpoena power also sends a strong message that our local government welcomes transparency. Finally, the ability to conduct concurrent investigations generally produces a more robust analysis and information process.

This legislation is enabling in nature, which allows for each jurisdiction to determine what level of additional powers provided to its respective police accountability board.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 836.