



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

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

**HB 6**

January 21, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Ways and Means Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill 0006 – State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services – Property Appraisal Aids – Geographic Images

**POSITION: Support with Amendment**

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** House Bill (HB) 6.

HB6 would create a uniform system for gathering data from some “harder to access” rural jurisdictions to use for State assessment purposes. While we support the move towards a statewide system, the BCA is already utilizing technology to capture geographic images for our work. It is unclear in the Bill as drafted if the BCA will be charged to cover the cost to create a State system that we already have. It is not known which contractor the State will use and if the BCA would be able to continue to use our systems or would be required to contract with the State.

Baltimore City subscribes to Eagleview Pictometry, which is an aerial imagery service which gets updated annually. Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Office of Information and Technology (BCIT), and the Department of Transportation (DOT) all regularly use this system. Baltimore City employees also have access to Cyclomedia which is similar to Google Street View. These tools are used by DHCD and DOT to evaluate properties for code compliance and public safety.

The BCA would recommend a friendly amendment to provide flexibility in cases where a jurisdiction uses compatible systems and are already sharing data. The BCA would recommend an amendment on page 3, after line 16 to add, (III) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL EXEMPT BALTIMORE CITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE USING A COMPATIBLE APPRAISAL AID SYSTEM AND SHARING DATA WITH THE STATE.

This amendment lessens the chance for a contractual, financial or procurement impact on the City of Baltimore and would ensure that we could continue to utilize the technology we are currently using to capture geographic images for our work.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests **a favorable amendment** to HB 6.