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MAYOR

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HB1276

March 3, 2026

TO: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

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

RE: House Bill 1276: West North Avenue Development Authority - Neighborhood Social Connection and Development Program - Establishment (WNADA Neighborhood Social Connection and Development Act)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1276.

HB 1276 would create the Neighborhood Social Connection and Development Program within the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) using existing funding to provide technical support to community development corporations, targeted grants for community building activities, and to support community events, outreach and provide other operational support. broader economic revitalization.

The BCA appreciates and supports the need to provide technical assistance in particular to smaller community-based organizations to ensure they have all of the tools and resources necessary to provide services within their communities. The legislation also requires that organizations participating as a part of the Program collaborate directly with residents to ensure that the services provided reflect the priorities of the neighborhood.

HB 1276 provides the complementary supporting structure that makes development projects sustainable. The success of WNADA and the City of Baltimore as a whole is rooted in direct community engagement and reflecting the needs of our residents.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 1276.