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HB 1408

March 5, 2026

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

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

RE: House Bill 1408 – Motor Vehicles - Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems - Impoundment

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1408.

Baltimore's automated enforcement program exists first and foremost to improve public safety. The program's aim is to reduce speeding, prevent crashes, and save lives. The system has been shown to reliably correct dangerous and unlawful behavior for the vast majority of drivers. However, the City continues to see a small group of drivers who repeatedly violate traffic laws and ignore citations. These "chronic offenders" accumulate numerous delinquent citations, avoid accountability, and continue endangering themselves and others.

House Bill 1408 would provide a reasonable next step for holding chronic offenders accountable when all other remedies have failed. The Bill would allow for the impoundment of vehicles with three or more delinquent citations, ensuring that this additional layer of enforcement only targets drivers with an established pattern of unlawful driving behavior.

As of the end of 2024, the City's automated enforcement program found over 21,000 Maryland drivers and over 200 out-of-state drivers had \$500 or more in delinquent citations. Existing tools such as late fees, registration holds, and collections have not been effective in holding these chronic offenders accountable, leading to continued unsafe driving behavior on City streets.

While traffic cameras are a critical part of the State's road safety toolkit, automated enforcement cannot meaningfully deter chronic offenders without tangible consequences. House Bill 1408 is about consistency and fairness in enforcement, outlining an effective recourse for drivers with an established pattern of reckless driving behavior.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB1408.