



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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SB0879

April 1, 2026

TO: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 879 - Baltimore City - Natural Resources Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 879.

This legislation authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer bow hunting season in Baltimore City with proper permitting from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and adding Baltimore City to the list of jurisdictions in which the safety zone for archery hunters extends 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

This will reduce the safety zones for archery hunters from 150 yards to 50 yards, similar to that in other counties. This change would be beneficial for our Deer Management program if we are able to establish managed hunts. It allows us to work in smaller green spaces in proximity to homes/businesses. In general, this bill will allow Baltimore property owners increased opportunities to hunt on their property if they have sufficient green space.

For the above reasons, the Baltimore City Administration respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 879.