# CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT – HB 172 – Municipalities – Enforcement Officers – Body Worn Cameras**

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Hagerstown to express their strong support for House Bill 172, which advances important policy improvements related to the use of body-worn cameras by municipal enforcement officers. This legislation represents a meaningful step toward strengthening accountability, enhancing public trust, and ensuring transparency in municipal enforcement operations across Maryland.

Body-worn camera programs have demonstrated clear benefits for both officers and the communities they serve. They provide an objective record of interactions, support professional standards of conduct, and help resolve complaints or incidents more efficiently. Expanding and standardizing their use among municipal enforcement officers will promote consistency in enforcement practices while reinforcing confidence that public safety activities are conducted fairly and responsibly.

In addition, the bill supports municipalities by establishing clearer expectations and operational frameworks, helping local governments implement policies that balance transparency, privacy protections, and responsible resource management. These improvements will ultimately benefit residents, officers, and local agencies alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 172 a favorable report and support its passage during the current legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of Maryland's communities.

Sincerely,

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Scott A. Nicewarner

City Administrator, City of Hagerstown