



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 601 – Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot
Program – Gaithersburg and Rockville MC 5-26
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri and I thank you for the opportunity to share the City of Rockville’s strong support for HB 601. The Mayor and Council thank Delegate Palakovich Carr, Delegate Spiegel, and Delegate Vogel for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support this legislation. HB 601 authorizes the placement of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in Gaithersburg and Rockville under the pilot program authorized for Prince George’s County, certain school zones in Baltimore City, and the City of Takoma Park. HB 601 aligns with Rockville’s Vision Zero priority. We believe it is a much-needed tool to help our children travel safely to and from school.

In Rockville, we have multiple schools within our borders, including fifteen operated by Montgomery County Public Schools. One of the City’s top traffic-related concerns received by the Rockville City Police (RCPD) is stop sign violations. Since January 2020, the City Police have directed patrols for stop sign violations. During this time, the RCPD have issued 470 traffic citations and 4,695 warnings for stop sign violations. Further, the RCPD has handled 23 crash reports in which one or more of the contributing factors was failing to stop at a stop sign. Stop sign enforcement has been and remains an ongoing assignment for on-duty patrol officers. Due to the extremely high volume of requests, it is very difficult for our officers to conduct enforcement when they are handling calls for service. We believe the use of this technology would be a police force multiplier and incentivize changed driver behavior similar to what we experienced with speed and red-light enforcement systems.

HB 601 is a major step forward that would provide added protection for our children and school communities. By allowing the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones, we have a tremendous opportunity to reduce crashes, save lives, and change driver behavior. Keeping our children safe from drivers who are increasingly distracted and do not follow stop sign laws is essential. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 601 with a favorable report.