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MAYOR

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HB 172

March 31, 2026

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: House Bill (HB) 172 - Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 172.

HB 172 would add municipal enforcement officers to the definition of law enforcement officers for the purpose of allowing these enforcement officers to use body-worn camera during the course of the officers' duties.

Baltimore City has three types of enforcement officers who perform various duties throughout the city that put them in direct contact with residents in situations that can sometimes lead to negative interactions. These officers conduct traffic enforcement for large scale events alongside sworn officers where tens of thousands of individuals are entering or leaving venues; parking enforcement including overnight enforcement; animal control where pet owners may become aggressive toward those officers; and other enforcement officers who conduct enforcement for various types of housing violations.

Due to the nature of the work of our special enforcement officers, the potential for assault of these critical workers poses a substantial challenge to recruitment and staff morale, which in turn hurts the level of service the City can provide to residents. Parking enforcement officers are particularly prone to confrontation and conflict due to the controversial nature of their work— no one is happy to receive a parking ticket. Parking enforcement officers are required to disengage when disputes arise, but this does not ensure the safety of officers.

By providing municipal enforcement officers the ability to have body-worn cameras, we can help to ensure their safety in performing their duties. Additionally, as this legislation does not mandate that all municipalities implement this law, it merely provides an additional option for cities wishing to provide this resource for their officers. For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 172.