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MAYOR

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**HB 0987**

March 10, 2026

**TO:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill 987– Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund - Alterations

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 987.

HB 987 would increase the minimum funding level for the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (MD VIPP) Fund from \$3,000,000 to \$10,000,000 annually.

MD VIPP already supports prevention and intervention work in communities most impacted by gun violence in Baltimore City and directly funds aspects of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement's community violence intervention ecosystem and neighborhood stabilization response work, including a full-time position responsible for operating Baltimore's Peace Mobile.

In a time when the federal government is cutting funding for proven violence prevention work, it is crucial that we commit more resources at the state level for efforts that are actively saving lives and co-producing public safety in Baltimore and jurisdictions throughout Maryland.

HB 987 addresses an urgent need for increased funding in order to sustain and strengthen these efforts.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 987.