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BILL NO.: **HB 187**

TITLE: Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body–Worn Cameras

SPONSOR: Delegate Ivey

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 9, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 187 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body–Worn Cameras. This legislation would require all law enforcement agencies to adopt policies for the use of body-worn cameras consistent with those developed by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

Body-worn cameras are an effective means of gathering data when investigating the circumstances of a particular incident. Local governments, civilians, and law enforcement officers across the State support the use of body-worn cameras because they can provide context and an outline of events if an encounter is called into question.

Baltimore County strives to promote transparency and accountability throughout local government. Direct footage of interactions between law enforcement and civilians contributes invaluable evidence for court proceedings, in internal investigations, and in keeping the public informed. With the proper funding mechanisms, as the cost of this service is significant, this legislation will support the County’s efforts in promoting a more transparent and accountable government.

While supportive of the legislation overall, Baltimore County encourages the General Assembly to carefully consider if the deadline of October 1, 2021 is a realistic benchmark for all local jurisdictions to achieve.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 187. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.