



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 896

March 15, 2022

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Brandon Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore

RE: House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimaged for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop the Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.