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**HB 1045**

March 9, 2023

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

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

**RE:** House Bill 1045 – Public Safety – Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1045.

HB 1045 will help to increase safety in high-crime areas by providing neighborhood residents with doorbell cameras or security systems with doorbell cameras. This bill represents an important state commitment toward helping to make neighborhoods safer in areas of highest need; these are areas where cost is a major obstacle for many residents who would benefit from doorbell cameras.

In addition to reinforcing household safety, doorbell cameras have the potential to assist with investigations of nearby crimes. This legislation takes the important steps of providing for the installation of cameras; engaging community organizations and residents to promote community participation in the Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program; and providing training for residents on the use of doorbell cameras as well as the submission of video captured by cameras to law enforcement. Baltimore City currently has a program offering vouchers and rebates to residents for security cameras. This legislation will build on the existing program and help to increase usage of doorbell cameras in high-crime areas in Baltimore and statewide.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1045.