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Kishia L. Powell, P.E.

June 9, 2026

#### Position: Support

Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the Baltimore City Council:

I am writing in support of the **Resolution 26-0202 Charter Amendment – Department of Water and Wastewater**. As a member of the Regional Water Governance Work Group, established by the Maryland General Assembly for the purpose of evaluating governance options for the City of Baltimore's regional water and wastewater system, I have participated in meetings regarding the future governance, management, operations and maintenance of the system. Our focus as a work group has been the importance of ensuring that it remains accountable and in the best position to be responsive to customer needs with equity as an imperative.

Having served as Bureau Head of the City of Baltimore's Bureau of Water and Wastewater, I know first-hand the limitations and challenges the Bureau has experienced which are inherent in the current structure. This Resolution represents an essential step toward a structure that will achieve operational efficiencies for improved service delivery.

The City of Baltimore's Water and Wastewater enterprise represents the second largest utility in the state of Maryland, and among the 15 largest water utilities in the United States (out of more than 50,000 utilities); a stature that should be reflected in its structure. As a peer water utility, the Bureau of Water and Wastewater must address similar regulatory, operational and financial challenges including balancing affordability with making necessary investments in infrastructure and the workforce. The Work Group's discussions have highlighted these unique operational and infrastructure challenges that Baltimore's public utilities are facing.

Creating a dedicated Department of Water and Wastewater recognizes the complexities of these responsibilities and provides clearer accountability, which will allow for greater focus on maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable water and wastewater services for customers throughout the region. This Charter Amendment is a practical change that will strengthen utility governance and ensure that Baltimore's water and wastewater system is positioned to overcome future challenges.

I respectfully urge the Council to pass **Resolution 26-0202 Charter Amendment – Department of Water and Wastewater** on to the voters of Baltimore City.

Sincerely,

Kishia L. Powell, P.E.  
General Manager/CEO, WSSC Water  
Member, Regional Water Governance Work Group