

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*

**Marnell A. Cooper**  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

**Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

September 19, 2016

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young  
President, Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Position Statement  
City Council Resolution 16-0288R

Dear Council President Young:

On February 8, 2016 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill (Resolution) to improve the safety of Baltimore's schoolchildren by dedicating funds from the planned redeployment of speed and red light cameras by the City to increasing the number of crossing guards working to protect our children.

The safety of our students is the number one priority for Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools). Ensuring that our schoolchildren can travel safely to and from school is therefore an issue of the utmost importance, and the role that school crossing guards play is essential in this process. In SY 2015-16 there were approximately 83,665 students enrolled in City Schools. Of these, 4,878 received yellow bus or taxi cab transportation services. The remaining 76,788 students either received corner to corner services (which require students to walk to and from designated bus stops), walked to school, or rode Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA) buses.

As stated in the Resolution, more crossing guards would be a great asset in keeping our children safe while traveling to and from school. Dedicating anticipated traffic camera revenue to fund additional crossing guards would be an effective way to achieve that goal.

City Schools therefore strongly supports City Council Bill 16-0288R. Increasing the number of crossing guards would appreciably increase the safety of our students in traveling to and from school. We will be pleased to provide additional testimony on this issue at your request.

Thank you for inviting City Schools to participate in this very important process.

Sincerely,



Sonja Brookins Santelises, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer