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**Testimony**

**22-0136R Informational Hearing – Status of Baltimore City Municipal ID Program  
November 8, 2023**

Honorable Chair McCray and Distinguished Members of the Health, Environment, and Technology Committee:

22-0136R is a resolution calling for a hearing regarding the Municipal ID program. In 2016, legislation creating the Municipal ID program was passed. The goal of the program is to make it easier for residents who have challenges getting IDs to get some legal identification to take advantage of services, housing, and enjoy all that Baltimore has to offer.

Specific groups mentioned in the legislation include people who have just arrived to Baltimore City who may be undocumented, people transitioning, formerly incarcerated individuals, people experiencing homelessness, and anyone who has had difficulty getting an ID.

The 2016 law also outlined the requirements for proof of identification, proof of residency, and other stipulations to obtain a Municipal ID. The legislation was also very clear that any data collected through this process was to be deleted and destroyed as a way to protect residents whose information could lead to deportation or other harmful effects. The equivalent of BCIT was the implementing agency.

The program was never implemented. As a result, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services had to fulfill the need for IDs for people experiencing homelessness and contracted with the United Way to provide those IDs. We will hear from their contractor during the hearing.

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success took the lead last year to begin fulfilling the requirements of the 2016 law. During our hearing, they will report on the status of implementation, including best practices researched, phasing, costs, and timeline for the roll out of the program.

I am grateful for your continued attention to this issue and look forward to the conversations.

Respectfully Submitted:

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