

*AKG, Deputy, for:*

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4941
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #16-0288R – Traffic Camera Revenue For Crossing Guards

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



DATE: September 13, 2016

**TO** The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
Room 400, City Hall

City Council Bill 16-0288R has been introduced for the purpose of calling on the Administration to act 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.

Maryland State Law (§7-302) currently restricts the use of revenue collected from traffic control signal monitoring systems (red light cameras) or speed monitoring systems (speed cameras) to the following:

- Cost recovery for implementing and administering the program
- Public safety purposes, including pedestrian safety programs

The City will incur significant costs to administer the program, including vendor payments and staffing. In order to comply with State Law regulating the administration of a program, the City must have a minimum number of staff to review citations and monitor operations. The City must rely on camera revenue to first cover these operating costs.

The Finance Department is also concerned that dedicating revenues for any specific purpose undermines sound financial management and crowds out funding for other core City services. Furthermore, the City continues to face a large structural budget deficit. Last year, the Finance Department projected that the City is \$558 million short on funding current service levels over the next six years (through 2022) and another \$193 million short on meeting commitments for property tax relief, infrastructure investment, and employee pay increases. Restrictions on revenues further compromise our ability to close these funding gaps.

Another consideration is that traffic camera revenue is expected to shrink over time as compliance with traffic laws improves, and therefore should not be relied on to fund recurring operating expenses. At the suggestion of Councilman Kraft, the Finance Department is looking at budgeting camera revenue sufficient to cover administrative costs, and restricting any additional revenue for one-time uses.

The Finance Department is happy to provide additional information as requested.

cc: Henry Raymond  
Angela Gibson

*Comments*

