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February 16, 2015

To: District 14 and 19 Delegates and Senators

Subject: Support for HB271 – Quarterly audits for speed monitoring systems

The Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) represents over 35 homeowner and civic associations in the Olney Master Plan area. For over thirty years, GOCA has promoted the civic, cultural, and economic welfare of the Olney community.

At its February 10, 2015 meeting, GOCA voted overwhelmingly to pass the following resolution in support of House Bill 271, which requires local jurisdictions to audit their speed monitoring systems on a quarterly basis:

Whereas certain members of the State House of Delegates have proposed an amendment to the current Maryland Transportation Code requiring local jurisdictions to obtain quarterly independent audits of their speed monitoring systems; and

Whereas this proposed legislation would also require the results of the audits to be kept on file and admitted as evidence in certain proceedings

Now therefore be it resolved that GOCA supports the proposed legislation. Furthermore GOCA recommends the independent audits be completed by a qualified and accredited independent person or entity. It also recommends that the results of the quarterly audits be posted to the jurisdiction's website for public review.

GOCA applauds the State's efforts to put tighter controls over local speed monitoring systems in place. GOCA suggests that HB271 be edited to clarify the precise qualitative differences between the current "annual calibration check" and the proposed "quarterly audit." HB271 needs to include more specificity regarding the required qualifications of the independent auditor and the exact meaning of "independent" so that there is no ambiguity as to what individuals or entities are allowed to perform the audits under the new law. GOCA also encourages requiring the local jurisdictions to make the quarterly audit results readily available to the public, preferably by posting to a publicly accessible web site.

Sincerely,

John Webster
President