



SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

June 4, 2009

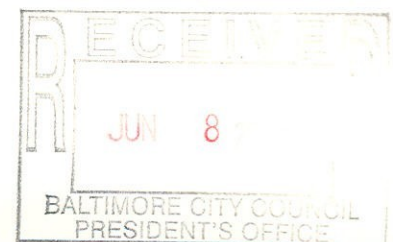
The President and Honorable Members Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Re: 09-0339 Supplemental General Fund Operating Appropriation

Dear President Rawlings-Blake and Members:

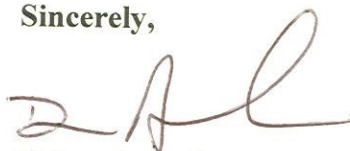
The Police Department supports ordinance 09-0339. This \$3,546,000 in funding is due to overtime spending to assertively and comprehensively provide for improved public safety for Baltimore's citizens. While we realize that public safety gets a generous share of the budget resources, it should be noted that last year Baltimore City experienced the lowest homicide rate in 20 years. Furthermore, the Police Department spent over 5 million dollars less in overtime last year than in the previous fiscal year. Currently, violent crime is down 11%, total crime is down 8% and overtime is down 23%.

The primary non-anticipated expense for the police department that has resulted in the need for supplementary appropriations is overtime. Overtime is not always budgeted to the maximum level because there is generally built-in savings from funded vacant positions that help offset overtime expenses that exceed the budgeted amount. When applied to special crime initiatives, overtime can often be more cost effective than hiring additional officers because it can be short-term in nature. In an agency such as the police department that must respond to crime patterns quickly and decisively, this is a critical tool. It should be remembered that overtime when used strategically and monitored closely, could help an agency to accomplish its mission in the most cost effective manner. It allows commanders a level of flexibility that is not always available with a built-in permanent shift. The police department constantly tracks overtime expenditures. Every pay period commanders are provided with reports that list every member of their command that has earned overtime. Commanders are responsible for justifying all expenditures.



The Police Department greatly appreciates your support and that of your committee members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Owens', written in a cursive style.

Deborah A. Owens
Deputy Police Commissioner