



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

November 29, 2013

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 13-0262-Special Traffic Enforcement Officers-Citywide
Jurisdiction

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 13-0262-Special Traffic Enforcement Officers (STEOs)-Citywide Jurisdiction and supports the extension of the geographic authority for these officers to control and direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic under the Maryland Vehicle Law or on the City Code regulating motor vehicles.

The proposed legislation also seeks to expand the agencies eligible to be certified as STEOs, however the bill reports by the Department of Public Works and the Department of General Services recommend that the authority be vested primarily with the Department of Transportation who also agrees with this position. The BPD also joins this request which will serve to streamline the overall oversight and management of the program by limiting the City agencies requesting this authority.

As Baltimore continues to expand hosting special events throughout the City, the extension of the requested authority sought is welcome as these events currently stretch the BPD resources. This anticipated expansion of the number of officers who will be able to be utilized for these events will also have the benefit of reducing the overall costs of police overtime which sometimes limits the ability of community to sponsor an event.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and the BPD recommends its favorable adoption.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

