



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

January 21, 2014

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, ^{JHG} Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 13-0132R-Strengthening Animal Abuse Laws

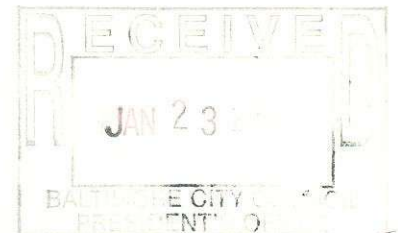
The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed 13-0132R Strengthening Animal Abuse Laws and supports the proposal to ask the Baltimore City Delegation to support legislation that serves to enhance anti-animal abuse laws in the 2014 Session.

As the resolution discusses, animal abuse is a serious problem not only in Baltimore City but also throughout the State. Research has shown the links to violent crime. Several cases in Baltimore have highlighted this very serious problem and as a result, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake established the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Commission. The Commission was the first of its kind in the country and has worked to make recommendations around eradicating animal abuse, increasing awareness of issues surrounding animal abuse, and developed legislation to protect animals and prosecute abusers.

This year, several bills have already been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly that will enhance Maryland's anti-animal abuse laws:

- House Bill 93/ Senate Bill 149 will authorize a court at sentencing to order a defendant convicted of specified animal cruelty offenses to pay costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, euthanizing or disposing of an animal confiscated from the defendant;
- House Bill 222 will add animal cruelty to a list of offenses for which a law enforcement agency that arrests a student for this offense is required to report to specified school officials.

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211



Comments

The BPD will continue to work with the Health Department and the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission to develop best practices for Baltimore and continue its work to prioritize the enforcement of animal abuse. Stronger laws will serve to deter this conduct and hold offenders responsible for their actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office of Government Affairs