



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

October 13, 2021

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: City Council Resolution #21-0063R
Informational Hearing- An Evaluation of the Deferred Retirement Option Program
as a Retention Strategy for Fire and Police Personnel**

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0063R for the purpose of requesting the Executive Director of the Baltimore City Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System, the Board of Trustees for the Baltimore City Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System, the Director of the Department of Finance, representatives from the Baltimore Police Department, and representatives from the Baltimore City Fire Department come before the City Council to discuss the Deferred Retirement Option Plan ("DROP"), analyze current and former participation in the program, brief the Council on policy differences between the original DROP program and DROP 2, and share what modifications the City can make to the policy that would allow us to use it as an incentive to retain veteran fire and police personnel.

While the BPD supports creative options intended to incentivize members to stay with the Baltimore Police Department, we ultimately defer to the Department of Finance and the Baltimore City Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System to determine the costs of reinstating a system like DROP. Based off of those estimates we will then need to make a determination as to whether the benefits of such a plan outweigh any additional costs to the City and if so, do those benefits outweigh potential investments in other areas within BPD. We remain open and look forward to engaging in a robust conversation at the hearing. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council
Natasha Mehu, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Nina Themelis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff