



Catherine Pugh
Mayor

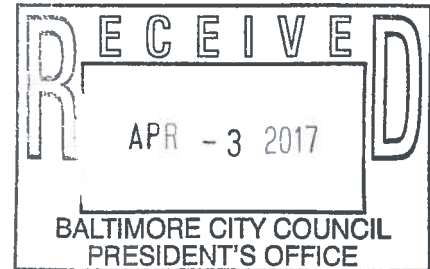
BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Kevin Davis
Police Commissioner

March 30, 2017

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



Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 17-0006R
Funding for the Consent Decree Between the Baltimore City Police
Department and the United States Department of Justice**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 17-0006R. This resolution is for the purpose of requesting the Director of Finance and the Police Commissioner work to ensure that there are no current spending efficiencies within the Department before more dollars are allocated for the implementation of changes mandated in the recently signed consent decree with the United States Department of Justice.

The Department supports this bill.

The City of Baltimore and the Department have been in the national spotlight for police reform, and the Department intends to be a national model. This is evidenced by the historic and accelerated agreement – the Consent Decree – reached between the City of Baltimore, the Department, and the Department of Justice.

The Department embraces the Consent Decree and the role of a Federal Monitor in ensuring that the mandates of the agreement are accomplished. The Department also recognizes that this undertaking will be very costly, and appreciates the need to be as financially efficient as possible before more money is allocated.

The Department believes that the Consent Decree is a necessary step towards the rebuilding of trust between the Department and the communities it serves. The agreement represents a commitment to trust, transparency, and meaningful reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Department looks forward to working with the City Council on this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Gillis

Director of Government Affairs