



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Richard Worley
Police Commissioner

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

October 23, 2024

RE: City Council Bill #24-0584
Baltimore City Government Agencies—Language Access

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 24-0584, which requires Baltimore City government entities to appoint language access liaisons and adopt a Language Access Plan. This bill also requests that agencies adhere to proposed reporting requirements including biennial updates and annual assessment reports.

BPD frequently interfaces with the public, making language accessibility for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals a crucial need, necessary to successfully deliver aid, provide information, and complete evidence collection for non-English speaking residents. The department lists Policy #1735 on its website which details current language access services and tools and methods used for LEPs including language ID cards, translated forms and documents, and language interpreting. Department members encountering LEPs are trained to utilize language telephone lines, summon a Qualified Bilingual on call member of the department (QBM), or request the need for an on-site professional interpreter. As a result of BPD's proactive actions on language access, the department is included in MIMA's Cohort 4, which is the final group of agencies included in the Language Access Policy roll out.

Additionally, BPD already has an assigned member of staff serving as our Language Access Coordinator/Liaison. This position is listed within BPD's Compliance unit.

The Baltimore Police Department has no objection to City Council Bill#24-0584. We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on this piece of legislation and look forward to contributing to this citywide effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin C. Murphy".

Erin C. Murphy, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council
Nina Themelis, Director, Mayors Office of Government Relations
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff

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