



Catherine Pugh
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Kevin Davis
Police Commissioner

November 27, 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. 17-0144
Discounted City Services and Equipment for Nonprofit Events**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 17-0144. This legislation requires that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event. Based on the legal conclusions of the City Solicitor, the BPD supports this bill as drafted with the understanding that the BPD would be legally exempt from these mandates if this bill were to pass.


The BPD is called upon to provide security and assist with traffic management at a very large number of events each year. Although the BPD does not specifically track whether each event organizer is a nonprofit, virtually all of these events are indeed organized by nonprofits. Included among the special events are races, festivals, block parties, concerts, and parades.

Providing security for such events is an enormous task that requires enormous amounts of time and operational resources. Security needs are likely to continue to increase, as they have over the last year, due to a wave of national tragedies that have highlighted vulnerabilities that must be addressed. Unfortunately, these increased needs translate into increased costs.

These events are enormously beneficial to the City, often showcasing the City at its best, creating a positive atmosphere, and driving economic activity. As such, it is of paramount importance that the BPD not be hampered in its ability to facilitate these events in a safe manner.

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

Sincerely,


James A. Gillis
Chief of Staff