



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

March 16, 2022

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

RE: City Council Bill #21-0082R
Investigative Hearing- What is the State of Stat?

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 22-0082R, for the purpose of requesting that the City Administrator, the Deputy City Administrator, each of the Deputy Mayor's, the Chief Data Officer, the Director of the Office of Performance and Innovation, the Director of the Baltimore City Office of Information Technology and the heads of Data Driven Strategies and Performance Management from each city agency come before the City Council to discuss the current state of data collection, evaluation, and how we are using the tenets of CitiStat to address internal process issues to help close service delivery gaps.

The BPD examines and presents data in a myriad of ways that provide the public with crucial information and allows the department to better understand crime trends and examine internal operations and strategies. Currently, the department has available information on our website which includes an interactive crime map for public use and shows data based on general offense reports extracted from BPD's records management system. The application contains data for the past 365 days and is updated each morning. Crime data from previous years can be found on Open Baltimore which is updated by our Comstat team weekly.

As of May 2020, BPD began transitioning paper-based records into a fully digital system. BPD will soon be moving to the FBI mandated National Incident-Based Reporting System "NIBRS" which will improve overall quality, accuracy, and timeliness of crime data collection.

Internal discussion and analyzation of statistics and operations is critical in ensuring the success of the department. Comstat meetings are held weekly and serve as an accountability session for police districts. Comstat used to be operations based but has now evolved into a holistic model. These meetings are high level in nature and examine trends, patterns, and outcomes. Additionally, crime briefings are held three times weekly. These meetings are operations focused and include updates, discussion between districts and CID, and CGIC deep dives.

c/o 242 West 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2908

The BPD has no objections to City Council Bill 21-0082R. We look forward to our presentation and continuing to work with all city agencies to ensure a well-functioning, ever improving city. 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

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