



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

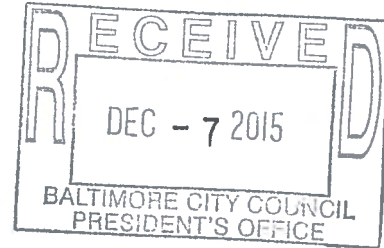


**Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**  
Mayor

**Kevin Davis**  
Police Commissioner

December 4, 2015

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. 15-0250R**  
**Baltimore City Police Academy at Coppin State University**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 15-0250R. This resolution calls on the BPD to conduct an evaluation of the cost and resource benefits of transferring all or parts of the Police Academy to Coppin State University's (CSU) Bishop L. Robinson Sr. Justice Institute. The Department has no objection to this resolution, but notes that despite the numerous benefits derived from moving the Academy to CSU, additional financial resources have yet to effectuate this partnership.

The Department agrees with the sponsors of this legislation that there are numerous benefits to relocating the Academy to CSU. For example, the Academy at 3500 Northern Parkway is outdated and in some cases dilapidated and unusable. For that reason, it makes sense to look at alternative locations for the Academy. CSU has much to offer police trainees, most notably the ability to create a police training curriculum that can translate to 18 college credits that a trainee could apply to a college degree. Furthermore, trainees and instructors would have access to state-of-the-art classroom and other instructional space. As noted in the recitals of this resolution, a BPD/CSU partnership would also strengthen the Department's bond with the West Baltimore community, aid in recruiting candidates to join BPD, and allow trainees to take advantage of cross-disciplinary opportunities. Commissioner Davis and other senior Command staff have met with top officials at CSU to discuss these benefits and potential next steps in forming a partnership.

The Department has previously conducted a cost/benefit analysis of transitioning the Academy from the current facility on Northern Parkway to CSU. If such a transition were to occur, there are a number of financial and practical hurdles that must first be overcome. The Department currently spends around \$535,000 per year to operate the Academy at Northern Parkway. When this issue was being discussed with CSU in 2013 and 2014, CSU submitted a proposed cost per trainee of \$3,126. The Department would like to train at least 200 police officers per year. Without factoring in how much the cost per trainee has risen since 2013, training 200 trainees would translate to a cost of \$625,200 per year. Therefore, it would cost more to train police officers at CSU than it does currently at the Academy. Additionally, there are a number of functions that currently exist at the Academy that CSU may not be able to accommodate. For example, there are certain types of tactical training that CSU may not be able to accommodate at its existing facilities. Additionally, the Academy requires

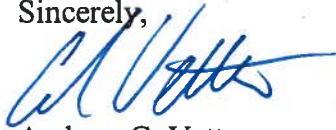
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dedicated classrooms and a facility for securing weapons. Therefore, even the academic portions of the Academy were transferred to CSU, the Northern Parkway facility would still be needed to conduct certain activities. Therefore, at least initially, the City would not be able to dispose of the Northern Parkway facility in order to offset the cost of sending trainees to CSU.

The BPD would like to continue discussions with CSU regarding the relocation of the Academy, and believes there is much to be gained by making such a move. The Department is open to discussing potential solutions to the financial and practical hurdles that are serving as a barrier to this partnership.

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

Sincerely,



Andrew G. Vetter  
Director of Government Affairs