

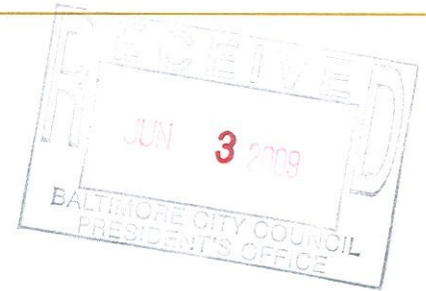
CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

334 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



TO: The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings Blake
and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall,
100. N. Holiday Street
Attn: Karen Randle

FROM: Sheryl Goldstein, Director, Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

DATE: May 29, 2009

RE: City Council Bill No. 08-0067R

City Council Bill No.: **08-0067R – Interagency Training Initiative – Nuisance Crimes**

The Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice (MOCJ) has reviewed this legislation which requires the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office to develop an inter-agency training program for police officers in cooperation with area law schools and other legal resources in order to improve outcomes in the prosecution of nuisance crimes.

Over the past five years, the BPD command staff and representatives of the State's Attorney's Office have worked collaboratively to develop in-service training opportunities and training modules to help increase the number of criminal cases accepted for prosecution. These training efforts have focused on topics such as taking statements from defendants, witnesses and victims, writing criminal citations, report writing, testifying in court and court room professionalism. Prosecutors from the State's Attorney's Office provide on-going training to BPD units that investigate rape, domestic violence, child abuse and homicide cases. Since 2007, these training efforts have also included cadets.

Officers training related to criminal citations began in 2003 and focusing particularly on ways to ensure that citations

Comments

stand up in court. BPD plans to continue to work with the State's Attorney's Office to develop a system that will reduce the number of improperly written and improperly charged citations and provide specialized training for officers who need it. MOCJ believes that the State's Attorney's Office is the most appropriate agency for providing this critical training.



Sheryl Goldstein
Director
Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice