



**Catherine Pugh  
Mayor**

# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Kevin Davis  
Police Commissioner**

June 4, 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. 17-0063  
Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 17-0063. This bill is for the purpose of establishing the Baltimore City Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety; providing for the Commission's composition, terms of office, meetings, quorum, officers, and rules of procedure; requiring the Commission, in cooperation with the Baltimore City Police Department, to develop annually a Community Interaction Recommendations Report; specifying the elements of the Report; and generally relating to the Baltimore City Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety.

The Department supports this bill.

The City of Baltimore and the Department have been in the national spotlight for police reform, and the Department intends to be a national model. This is evidenced by the historic and accelerated agreement – the Consent Decree – reached between the City of Baltimore, the Department, and the Department of Justice.

Part of this agreement includes the creation and implementation of a Community Oversight Task Force (COTF), which, among other things, builds on the recognition that an effective relationship between the Department and the community it serves is essential to a successful public safety strategy at the most basic level. The Department believes that the creation of the Baltimore City Citizens Advisory Commission for Public Safety, while somewhat duplicative of COTF, will serve to supplement and further advance the Department and the City of Baltimore in its goal toward more community involvement and a better public safety model.

Further, over the last two years, the Department has made community engagement a priority in its public safety strategy. This has included the creation of Departmental liaisons specifically for the LGBT, Hispanic, and homeless communities of Baltimore City, and a re-emphasis on Baltimore City's youth through Department-sponsored and Department-run summer camps, community mediation, Police Explorers Program, Outward

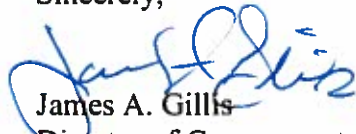
Bound Program, and Project PNEUMA. Additionally, the Department developed and implemented a Re-Entry Program for ex-offenders returning to society.

Moreover, the Department has reorganized and refocused its efforts on recruitment – especially of Baltimore City residents – by restructuring the recruitment program and re-implementing its police cadet program, among other things.

All of these efforts, among others, have been made in recognition that community participation is a necessary step towards an effective public safety strategy, and that such actions represent a commitment to trust with the communities the Department serves.

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

Sincerely,



James A. Gillis  
Director of Government Affairs