



SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



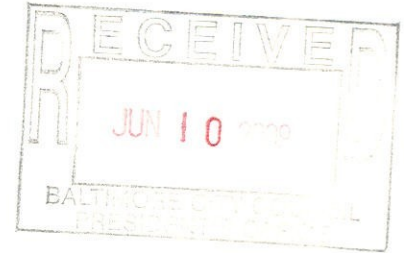
FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

June 9, 2009

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: ^{HAG} James H. Green, Legal Affairs Section
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 08-0067R-Inter-Agency Training Initiative-
Nuisance Crimes



The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 08-0067R-Inter-Agency Training Initiative-Nuisance Crimes. The proposed legislation requests that the Baltimore States Attorney's Office (SAO) and the BPD work cooperatively to develop an inter-agency training program for police officers to insure that nuisance citations are written properly and that training needs are addressed. The resolution also requests that the agencies seek assistance from the University of Maryland and Baltimore law schools to develop a continuing education course in the proper citing of nuisance crimes.

The BPD and the SAO have worked cooperatively over the last several years to identify issues surrounding the issuance of citations and the most common areas that hinder the prosecution of these cases. The training includes academy, annual in-service instruction, roll-call, field training officer, and supervisors training. The SAO has been instrumental in providing citation instruction in an attempt to ensure that citations meet the requisite legal standard for prosecution. Recent collaboration with the SAO has led to the development of a citation database so that the officers can be tracked and identified for additional training if it is determined that the citations that they have authored are being dismissed or have recurring problems. Through this system, supervisors can be provided with information to troubleshoot common errors and identify which of their officers should be provided additional instruction.

The BPD Court Liaison and Education and Training Sections remain the Department's avenue to implement the training for citations and issues relating to report writing. It is imperative that the BPD and the SAO continue to work

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together to identify issues that may hamper prosecution and provide training so that overall enforcement and the preservation of the quality of life in Baltimore's neighborhoods is maximized. We agree with the State's Attorney that the agencies are in the best position to identify the issues in this area and are able to develop the appropriate training. The Department remains committed to providing the best possible training for their officers and delivery of service to our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Frederick H. Bealefeld III, Police Commissioner, BPD
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison