



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

February 21, 2014

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

FROM: James H. Green, Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill No. 13-0301-"Ban the Box"-Fair Criminal-Record
Screening Practices

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 13-0301-"Ban the Box"-Fair Criminal-Record Screening Practices which prohibits certain employers from making certain inquiries about or taking certain actions because of specified arrests. The legislation proposes to prevent employers from conducting a criminal record check or otherwise inquiring into an applicant's criminal record until after the conclusion of an initial interview and provides administrative and judicial review and remedial relief for violations of the prohibitions.

Although the bill as written does not apply to the Mayor and City Council or any City agency including the BPD, many of the "findings" stated in § 14-2 are consistent with the goals articulated by Commissioner Batts and his charge to the BPD Community Partnership Division to assist in overall reentry and second-chance opportunities for ex-offenders. It is important that ex-offender have job opportunities and the City has also made substantial progress in this area. The Mayor's Office of Employment Development also remains committed to the overall goals of providing job opportunities for persons who have previous convictions which often pose a barrier to employment and last year successfully advocated before the General Assembly that the number of years which prohibit a person from employment with a casino because of their criminal history be reduced so that these job opportunities have greater access.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office of Government Relations



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Comments