



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

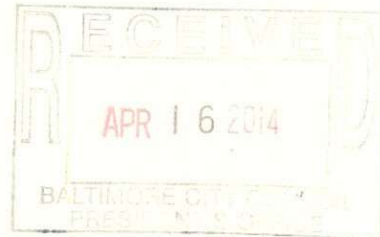
ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

April 16, 2014

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Ganesha Martin, Chief of Staff
Baltimore Police Department *Ganesha Martin*

Re: City Council Bill No. 13-0292 – Animal Abuse – Reporting and Community
Involvement



The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 13-0292 – Animal Abuse – Reporting and Community Involvement. The purpose of the bill is to allow the initiation of a complaint of animal abuse through the City's 911 emergency system and would additionally expand the number of at-large members on the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission.

Currently, Baltimore's communications system is operated by the Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT). MOIT does not operate two disparate 911 emergency and 311 non-emergency systems. The 911 emergency and 311 emergency systems are interconnected and, therefore, there is not a need to differentiate the reporting of animal abuse through the 911 emergency and the 311 non-emergency systems. Whether the public places a call through 911 or 311 the calls are routed to the appropriate agency based on established protocol and policy. The 311 non-emergency and 911 emergency operators can direct calls to the appropriate agency based on the nature of the call and uniform prioritization. Furthermore, the addition of the 911 emergency system as an option to initiate a complaint of animal abuse will not be expedited by calling 911. The 311 non-emergency system has the capability to initiate police response in emergency situations. Representatives from the police department and health department have discussed these matters with the sponsor of this legislation.

As the Council is aware, the BPD has partnered with the Baltimore City Health Department, and we are coordinating our response to address animal complaints. Together we are committed to protecting the wellbeing and health of animals, and we will continue to investigate complaints of animal abuse, cruelty and severe neglect in accordance with our established policy.

Whereas, we do not support the proposal to expand the initiation of animal abuse complaints through 911 as discussed above, the department does support the expansion

Tonyan/Comments

of the at-large members to the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission,
which will allow for increased public participation.

Thank you for allowing the department the opportunity to comment on the
proposed legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison