



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

November 29, 2013

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

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

FROM: James H. Green, ^{AG} Director Government Affairs
Baltimore Police Department

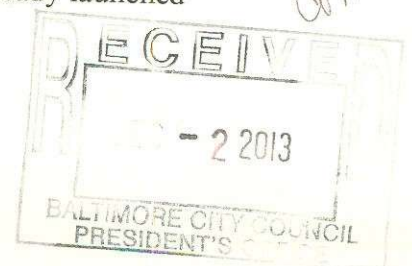
RE: City Council Bill No. 13-0110R-Informational Hearing-Preparedness and
Safety in Our Schools and Communities

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 13-0110R-Informational Hearing-Preparedness and Safety in Our Schools and Communities and looks forward to meeting with the Public Safety Committee to discuss the overall collaboration between the City agencies and the Baltimore City Public School Systems (BCPSS).

The BPD and the Baltimore City Schools have worked closely together for many years to ensure school safety and security for all of Baltimore's students. The recent national incidents have once again heightened our resolve for a collaborative approach to school safety in Baltimore. Since 2008, the BPD, BCPSS, and the Maryland Transit Administration have partnered on providing daily "safe passages" for our children. These efforts are coordinated in the BPD Watch Center so that the network of Citiwatch cameras are incorporated into the overall safety plan and specifically utilized to ensure that our students are safe beyond the classroom and its campus'. The Baltimore City School Police (BCSP) also regularly participates in the BPD weekly Compstat meeting and also in meetings with the different departmental intelligence sections.

As discussed in the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM) report to the Council, MOEM has also partnered with the BCPSS system to review and update the current BCPSS Schools Emergency Safety Plan and has also coordinated a four-day training course with emergency responders and the school system. The coordinated training allows for the agencies to be better prepared in cases of an emergency and for quick and decisive action when called to action. Further, a comprehensive and coordinated approach at the statewide level is also necessary and the Maryland General Assembly has recently acted to create the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS). The impact of recent critical incidents nationally and in Maryland has already launched an immediate and on-going review of school safety systems statewide.

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211



The creation of the MCSS will improve the identification of current gaps and provide an understanding of critical resource needs at the state and local level. It will also help to ensure that Maryland is doing everything possible to keep our children, educators, administrators, and staff safe while they are in the classroom and on/off our school campuses. With limited resources, Maryland and its school systems must fully understand its inventory of existing resources and make timely data-driven decisions in addressing school safety issues and local needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. The BPD looks forward to discussing these matters more fully with the Committee.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison