

Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Samuel Cogen, Sheriff

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The Clarence Mitchell Courthouse
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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District Court Office
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-396-7412
Fax: 410-396-7439

TO: The Honorable President of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary

FROM: Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq., Assistant Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO)

RE: City Council Bill #26-0184 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$100,000

DATE: May 11, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

Mr. President and Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council:

The Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has reviewed City Council Bill (CCB) #26-0184 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – \$100,000 and **supports** its passage, for the reasons explained below.

During the 2025 Legislative Session of the General Assembly of Maryland, the legislature passed and the Governor enacted House Bill 1293 (Chapter 515) – Baltimore City – Office of the Sheriff – Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU). This legislation—supported unanimously by the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations—created and codified the first ever Neighborhood Services Unit within the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO).

When the law took effect on October 1, 2025, the NSU came into existence, and began its official partnership with the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (Liquor Board), focusing on collaboratively enforcing relevant provisions of the State's Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article against licensed and unlicensed sales of alcohol within Baltimore City, as part of a memorandum of understanding between the two entities. Additionally, the BCSO has memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Alcohol Tobacco and Cannabis Commission (MDATCC) to enforce provisions of underage sales of products subject to their jurisdiction within the City.

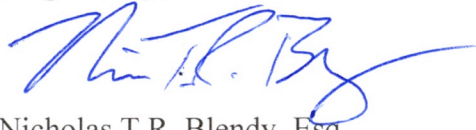
As the NSU took legal effect a quarter of the way into the current Fiscal Year, the BCSO sought funding mechanisms to help offset the costs on the existing budget, as part of its proactive efforts to identify and win funding to do important work for the residents of the City while not being solely reliant

on Mayor and City Council of Baltimore funds. Accordingly, the BCSO has applied for multiple highly competitive federal and state grants this fiscal year, and been very successful on several fronts, including a Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) grant award to provide operational funding for NSU that is the subject of this bill.

CCB #26-0184 is the mechanism by which the Mayor and City Council legally accepts and appropriates the \$100,000 in Maryland State GOCPP grant funds into the relevant Sheriff's Office budget service for the eligible work that NSU is doing in partnership with agency partners in and around the City of Baltimore, focusing on the types of nuisance crimes to improve behaviors and make every neighborhood in our city more livable.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCSO respectfully requests your **support** for CCB #26-0184.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicholas T.R. Blendy". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq.
Assistant Sheriff