



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
Mayor

June 5, 2015

ANTHONY W. BATTS  
Police Commissioner

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

*Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary*

**Re: City Council Bill No. 15-0540  
Social Host Regulation – Neighborhood Nuisances and Unruly Social  
Events**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

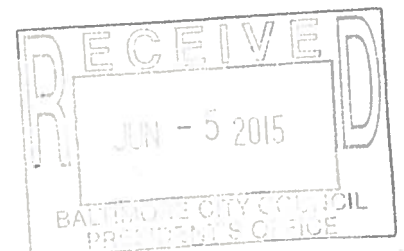
The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 15-0540 and takes a **favorable** position on this legislation. This bill defines “unruly social events” and extends the provisions governing the issuance of citations for certain “neighborhood nuisances” to include unruly social events. The bill prohibits property owners, operators, tenants, occupants, and persons with a possessory interest in a premise from creating neighborhood nuisances and hosting unruly social events. Furthermore, the bill provides that violations may be enforced through the issuance of a civil citation.

The Department is favorable on Council Bill 15-0540 because it creates another mechanism to utilize when confronted with parties or gatherings that are generally disturbing the quiet enjoyment of the City’s neighborhoods. The Department frequently responds to calls regarding loud parties and/or underage drinking, particularly in districts with large populations of university students. BPD will dispatch officers to investigate these situations, and if warranted, will speak with the property owner or host and request they cease engaging in disruptive activity. If underage drinking is occurring at the premises, the Department will issue citations accordingly. In the majority of cases, property owners or hosts are compliant. In some cases, however, officers have to take stronger actions such as issuing citations for noise, disorderly conduct, and reporting the activity to schools and universities. Creating a new category of “unruly social events” will provide the Department with an additional enforcement tool when confronted with these situations. Although the ability to issue civil citations for a new offense will create some additional administrative workload, the Department can bear any additional work within existing resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. The Department looks forward to working with the City Council on this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Vetter  
Director, Government Affairs



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