



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

May 6, 2014

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

Attention: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 13-0261
Minors – Curfew Reform**



Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 13-0261 – Minors – Curfew Reform. The proposed legislation amends the current curfew law that prohibits any person under the age of 17 from being in a public place after midnight on Friday and Saturday and after 11:00 p.m. on the remaining nights with enumerated exceptions. The amendments to the current law change the curfew time depending on the age of the minor and the time of the year. A person under the age of 14 would have a curfew at 9:00 p.m. every day of the week, all year-round. A person from the age 14 through 16 would have a curfew at 11:00 p.m. during the summer months, 11:00 p.m. curfew on Friday and Saturday nights. During the school year, a person from the age of 14 through 16 would have a curfew of 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. The daytime curfew during the school year for a person under the age of 16 would be expanded to 8 a.m. through 3 p.m. In addition, counseling services would be offered in lieu of a civil citation.

The BPD supports measures aimed at ensuring the safety of all constituents, especially minors. These changes will potentially decrease their risk of victimization. Minors who are found to be in violation of the curfew often times lack supervision created by unstable living environments. The access to counseling services in lieu of a civil citation is an opportunity to link youth and their families to the social services they need. The Mayor's proposal to create Youth Connection Centers in the City that operate year-round will be essential for providing minors and their families with social services and will allow for coordination of services between different agencies. The addition of the continuous evaluation of the curfew law and the impact on youth crime and victimization will give the City and BPD a better understanding of the consequences of the law and these evaluations should guide any future legislation. The proposed legislation amends the current daytime curfew time to start at 8:00 a.m. This time may

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need to be amended to accommodate the school schedule. For the current school year, there are several schools that open after 8:00 a.m., and the proposed legislation would impact minors traveling to school.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Ganesha Martin
Chief of Staff
Office of the Police Commissioner

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison