



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

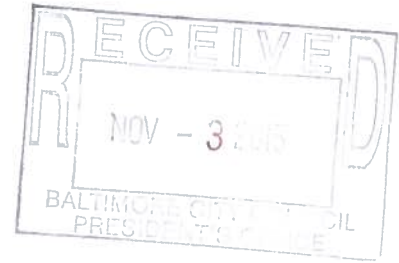


Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

Kevin Davis
Police Commissioner

November 3, 2015

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. 15-0253R
Request for State Action – Strengthening the Civilian Review Board**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 15-0253R. This resolution requests that the Maryland General Assembly enact legislation authorizing the Mayor and City Council to strengthen the Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City (CRB). The Department takes no position on this legislation.

The CRB is a permanent, statutory agency of Baltimore City, and operates independently of the BPD. BPD Internal Affairs (IA) works closely with the CRB as it reviews complaints made by members of the public regarding abusive language, false arrest, false imprisonment, harassment, or excessive force. BPD maintains a good working relationship with the CRB and coordinates its own IA investigations with the CRB to the extent possible. The Department believes the CRB plays a critical civilian oversight role. The Department believes that most of the specific expansions of the CRB's powers and responsibilities mentioned in the bill are workable, but cautions that full investigative powers may be preempted by other law.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Vetter
Director of Government Affairs

No position