



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor

**Michael S. Harrison**  
Police Commissioner

January 14, 2022

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

**RE: City Council Bill #21-0159**  
**Procurement- Zero-Emission Vehicles**

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0159 for the purpose of gradually converting the City fleet of vehicles to zero-emission vehicles, subject to certain exceptions.

BPD acknowledges the severity of the environmental crisis the world is facing. Substantial consequences and ever-increasing hazards are imminent if we do not implement changes. Zero emission vehicles are an important tool in helping to reduce air pollution from exhaust emissions.

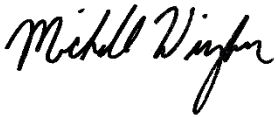
We share the Council's commitment to identifying smart and strategic innovative solutions that will not only have a positive impact on our environment but will also create opportunities for operational savings, in fact, we have already begun adding hybrid vehicles to our fleet. That said, we do want to flag concerns we have around the possible operational logistics that will go into charging the vehicle batteries and the capacity of the batteries themselves. Those concerns are as follows:

1. We will likely need to obtain more vehicles than we currently have in order to enable the vehicles to charge fully between uses. Currently, vehicles are shared by officers working all three shifts which means an officer ending his/her shift will give the vehicle they used during their tour of duty to the officer starting his/her shift. The time it takes to fully charge a depleted battery can range from 10-20 hours depending on a variety of factors. To avoid any negative operational impacts, the Department may need to acquire additional vehicles.
2. Since our officers utilize their vehicles as their work space, they have a lot of specialized equipment and technology within their vehicles that require additional battery capacity. We will need to ensure that the zero admissions vehicle will be able to accommodate that need.

3. We will also need to ensure that there is an adequate number of charging stations at each of the nine police districts, headquarters and other strategic locations throughout the City in case a vehicle that is being used on patrol has to be charged. This infrastructure may be costly and additional space may need to be secured to accommodate all of the vehicles that may be simultaneously parked and charging.

The BPD has no objections to City Council Bill 21-0159 but does ask the committee to carefully consider the points raised within this memo and include the Department in any further discussions or planning associated with addressing those issues. Thank you for allowing us to weigh in on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.  
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council  
Natasha Mehu, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Nina Themalis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR  
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff  
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff