



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

May 18, 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 #22-0234 Police Accountability

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 22-0234 which seeks to establish the Baltimore City Police Accountability Board; provide for the membership, staffing, budget and procedures of the Board; establish the Administrative Charging Committee and its membership, staffing, budget and procedures; and require the Director of the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights to adopt rules and regulations to carry out this Ordinance.

During the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the legislature enacted a series of bills that completely overhauled the framework governing how cases of police misconduct are handled and the method in which discipline is determined. House Bill No. 670, enacted as Chapter 59 of the Laws of Maryland, mandates that every county and Baltimore City must establish a Police Accountability Board and an Administrative Charging Committee by July 1, 2022. City Council Bill #22-0234 is enabling legislation consistent with HB 670 and establishes the structure by which residents of Baltimore City will be empowered to evaluate all claims of misconduct involving the public.

Collectively, we need to ensure that the process as enacted and ultimately implemented, is efficient, able to handle the high volume of cases, as well as builds upon the progress that the BPD has made in the last five years in meting out discipline and accountability to our members. To that end we stand ready to comply with this new process and have no objections to City Council Bill 22-0234. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this 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