



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

July 20, 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 #22-0247
Obstructing Street – Racing or Stunt Driving

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 22-0247 which is for the purpose of prohibiting the obstruction of public streets for the purpose of stunt driving or racing a motor vehicle.

BPD supports City Council Bill 22-0247 in that it creates additional enforcement tools to hold accountable those who engage in driving activities that threaten the safety of others and disrupts the passage of other drivers.

You may be aware that BPD fully supported Senate Bill 612 (which can be found at this link: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2022RS/bills/sb/sb0612E.pdf>) in the 2022 state legislative session. Under that bill, law enforcement would have gained the ability to tow vehicles used in these types of activities and drivers who engaged in this behavior could receive up to 12 points on their driver's license. Although the legislation was adopted by the legislature, it was vetoed by the Governor. BPD will support the legislation again in the upcoming session.

BPD looks forward to participating in a robust conversation regarding this important legislation. Thank you for allowing us to weigh in on this matter.

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, Deputy Director, Local and Federal Affairs, MOGR
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff