

**Statement of Jesmond O. Riggins – District 3**  
**In support of confirmation to the Police Accountability Board**  
**Before the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee**  
**On January 19, 2023**

Chairman Schleifer and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Committee for considering my nomination to the Police Accountability Board as a representative of Councilmanic District 3. It is an honor and privilege. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend today's hearing due to unforeseen circumstances. Please accept this written statement in place of any oral testimony I would have provided at the hearing.

I believe the primary reason why I am a strong candidate to be confirmed as a member to the newly formed Police Accountability Board is my yearslong commitment to improving the oversight of law enforcement in Baltimore City, first as a trained and credentialed oversight practitioner on the local level and then as a legislative staffer on the state level.

While employed at the Office of Equity and Civil Rights from July 2016 through January 2019, I oversaw the Civilian Review Board's day-to-day operations and investigations. During that time, I supervised the investigation and/or review of more than 300 complaints against law enforcement officers for misconduct that included over 1,200 separate allegations. I advised the Board on matters of law enforcement oversight, political strategy, legal compliance, and implementation of the April 2017 federal consent decree. I acted as the Board's primary agent in consent decree negotiations with the City Law Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Consent Decree Monitoring Team. And I authored a report titled "Fifteen Recommendations to Make the Civilian Review Board Effective: A Preliminary Report to the Community Oversight Task Force," published online in November 2017, which the Task Force used as the foundation of its August 2018 report.

After leaving the City of Baltimore, I joined Senator Jill P. Carter in the Maryland General Assembly as her chief of staff. Throughout my tenure with her office, from January 2019 through September 2022, I worked diligently behind the scenes on legislation concerning law enforcement oversight and accountability, particularly legislation that would have transformed the Civilian Review Board into an entity with sufficient authority, independence, and resources to operate effectively.

Given this, and the fact that I have spent my entire professional career trying to ensure that the rights of everyday people are protected and respected, I ask that the Committee vote favorably to confirm my nomination to the Police Accountability Board. I plan to be an asset to the city and will play my part, however large or small, in ensuring that all corners of our community can trust in our law enforcement agencies and partner with them to make our city a better, safer place to live and thrive.

Respectfully,



Jesmond O. Riggins, Esq.