



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

May 19, 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. 15-0208R
Informational Hearing – Eye Pledge**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

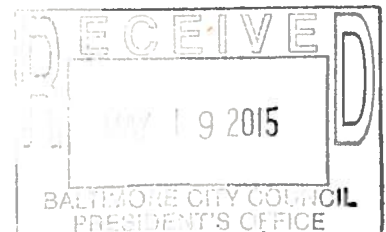
The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 15-0208R. This resolution is for the purpose of inviting the Police Commissioner and community leaders from the 13th District to appear before the Council to discuss the establishment of a pilot partnership between the Police Department and the community to improve neighborhood conditions through the “Eye Pledge” campaign.

On November 21, 2013, BPD released a “Public Safety in the City of Baltimore: A Strategic Plan for Improvement.” This plan included five “strategic pillars” for a safer Baltimore. One of the five pillars is that BPD “will develop and maintain relationships of trust with all members of the Baltimore community and work collaboratively with other organizations to solve community problems.” As stated in the resolution, the goal of Council Bill 15-0208R is to make it easier for members of the community to work more effectively together and with the police to improve the community. The “Eye Pledge” campaign is consistent with the goals of BPD’s strategic plan, and is worthy of further discussion and consideration. For this reason, BPD supports the goals of Council Bill 15-0208R and is prepared to discuss the specifics with the City Council.

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

Sincerely,

Drew Vetter
Director, Government Affairs



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