



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Mayor

Kevin Davis  
Police Commissioner

January 8, 2016

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. 15-0609  
Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation – Police Department  
- \$346,923**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 15-0609. This bill is for the purpose of providing a supplementary general fund operating appropriation in the amount of \$346,923 to the Department. This funding will be used to fund 10 new contractual BPD Crime Lab positions in Fiscal 2016 (\$246,923), and for new equipment and supplies needed for evidence processing (\$100,000). The Department supports this supplementary appropriation.

The 10 additional positions are for Crime Scene Response staffing. Staffing levels in this unit have not changed since 1972. As such, the current staffing for Crime Scene Response is not sufficient to meet the demand. This staffing shortage results in unreasonably long wait times, particularly for call types such as burglaries. Slow response times can also have a negative impact on the quality of forensic evidence gathered. This supplemental also includes \$100,000 for equipping the new Crime Scene Response personnel, including professional digital cameras, vehicles, technology software and hardware, and general supplies for evidence processing.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Vetter  
Director of Government Affairs

