


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennane, Chief <i>RC</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4941		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution #17-0047 - Expansive Auxiliary Police Program		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
Room 400, City Hall

January 8, 2017

Attention: Natawna Austin

City Council Resolution #17-0047 has been introduced for the purpose of exploring the expanded use of volunteer auxiliary police for traffic accidents, special event traffic, monitoring city watch cameras, and/or taking reports of minor crimes to allow more patrol officers on the streets (thus increasing police officers capacity for more proactive policing and reducing overtime hours worked, and spending). The resolution also seeks to explore the use of BPD's Telephone Reporting and Online Crime Reporting functions, and their potential for expanded use with regard to taking reports for minor crimes.

#### **The Auxiliary Police Program**

This program comprises a small team of unpaid civilian volunteers who work primarily with the Special Events Unit. The team performs administrative functions and assists with traffic control and small community events. BPD currently has nine individuals available, with a third actively engaged, for volunteer work that is performed on an informal basis. Auxiliary participants are not party to a formal contract. Any and all related expenses (for uniforms and equipment) are absorbed into the Department's existing budget.

#### **The Telephone Reporting Unit (TRU)**

The TRU endeavors to maximize policing resources by providing an option for non-emergent incidents to be handled by officers via telephone. The Unit came online in Fiscal 2014. Auxiliary personnel are eligible to work within this unit. The Department currently utilizes personnel not cleared for street work (e.g. those on medical leave) in this capacity, which enables able-bodied officers to focus on emergencies and community engagement. While Finance was unable to obtain the data necessary for estimating past and anticipating future cost savings from all eligible incidents, we do believe this unit has potential to achieve significant cost savings. Based on the figures for traffic accidents alone, the TRU could have captured approximately \$578K of cost-savings during Fiscal 2017.

#### **Online Reporting System (CopLogic)**

This system is used by the public to submit police reports without the presence of an officer or affiliate of the Department. Citizens (or auxiliary personnel) are able to report lost property, vandalism, theft, illegal dumping, and larceny from auto, just as long as there's no evidence to be recovered or known suspects outside of police custody. In 2016 there were 24,501 crimes eligible for reporting through CopLogic; only 10 percent of these (2,498) were submitted. Based on BPD's average cost of \$50 per officer dispatched

(and subsequent report filed) the Department saved nearly \$125K. BPD could have captured up to \$1.225M had all eligible non-urgent crimes been reported via CopLogic.

## **Other Expanded Use Functions**

### *Traffic Reports*

In Fiscal 2017 the Department wrote 19,385 traffic reports with an estimated average time from dispatch to clearance of 56.28 minutes. Using the average hourly Police Officer rate of \$32 (or \$0.53 per minute), each report prepared by an auxiliary police represents a cost-savings opportunity of \$29.83, for total potential savings of \$578K last fiscal year. BPD does not currently deploy auxiliary personnel to perform this function.

### *Sporting Events Traffic*

Auxiliary personnel are eligible to perform traffic management during special and sporting events. At least one auxiliary volunteer already works each home game, for both professional teams.

Based on an 80 home-game baseball season, the Department details 560 officers for traffic management outside of Camden Yards (typically seven officers per game). According to figures provided by BPD, the annual overtime spend on back-fill amounts to approximately \$117K, with an additional \$65K of overtime for completing unfinished tasks at the home assignment of a detailed officer; the total potential savings from traffic management for the baseball season is \$182K.

Based on a 10 home-game football season, the Department details 720 officers for traffic management outside of M&T Bank (typically 72 officers per game). According to figures provided by BPD, the annual overtime spend on back-fill amounts to approximately \$151K, with an additional \$84K of overtime for completing unfinished tasks at the home assignment of a detailed officer; the total potential savings from traffic management for the football season is \$235K.

### *CitiWatch*

Only sworn and contractual personnel (i.e. retired officers) are eligible to monitor CitiWatch cameras; auxiliary personnel do not have the qualifications. Retired officers are Maryland Commission certified to be on the BPD radios, and therefore are eligible to perform this duty.

The Finance Department supports a resolution to explore expanded use of Auxiliary personnel in all the capacities discussed above.

cc: Henry Raymond  
Kyron Banks