



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



BEARNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor

MICHAEL S. HARRISON
Police Commissioner

November 14, 2019

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: City Council Bill #19-0451
Biennial Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan

Dear Council President Scott and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 19-0451. The bill requires that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice present to the City Council a biennial comprehensive crime reduction plan. The plan must be coordinated and developed in consultation with several city agencies, including the Baltimore City Police Department. The plan must analyze existing criminal justice data, assess policing practices, assess holistic efforts aimed at crime reduction, report on any public engagement measures taken or to be taken to assist in crime reduction, assess public attitudes and public education regarding criminal justice issues, and establish goals, priorities, and standards for the reduction of crime and the improvement of the administration of justice in Baltimore City.

The Baltimore Police Department fully recognizes that the path to successfully reducing violence involves more than law enforcement alone. In fact, in Commissioner Michael Harrison's Comprehensive Crime Reduction & Departmental Improvement Plan, he calls for a comprehensive multi-disciplinary violence reduction strategy that focuses on **Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, Rehabilitation, and Re-Entry**. As such, BPD is committed to working collaboratively and cooperatively with our City's residents, businesses, advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, faith leaders, elected officials, as well as with other city, state, and federal agencies, to provide a multi-layer approach to solving underlying issues that lead to crime.

While the BPD defers to the Baltimore City Department of Law as to the legality of City Council Bill #19-0451, we would like to point out that § 29-10 (C)(2) of the bill which requires MOCJ to "assess policing practices" is in direct conflict with the mandates of the federal consent decree under which Baltimore City and the Baltimore Police Department are currently operating.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Wirzberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary
Sunny Schnitzer, Deputy Chief of Staff – Public Safety
Matt Stegman, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff
Deputy Commissioner Michael Sullivan
Colonel Sheree Briscoe
Lieutenant Colonel John Herzog