



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



BEARNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor

MICHAEL S. HARRISON
Police Commissioner

January 30, 2020

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

**RE: City Council Bill #20-0486
Private Security Camera System Rebate Program – Establishment**

The Baltimore Police Department has reviewed City Council Bill #20-0486 which sets out to establish a Private Security Camera System Rebate Program. The Program would apply to those property owners who purchase a system on or after June 1, 2020 which has been registered with the CitiWatch Community Partnership and for which an application has been submitted to the Director of Finance. Applicants will be entitled to a rebate of \$150,000 or the cost of their system whichever is less. Granting of rebates is subject to the availability of funds and to the priorities set forth in the bill. The bill requires the adoption of rules and regulations to carry out the Program; requires that the Department of Planning and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice collaborate with the Director of Finance on the Program's rules and regulations; requires an annual report by the Director and imposes criminal penalties for knowingly making a false statement on or in connection with an application for a rebate.

BPD enthusiastically supports City Council Bill #20-0486 and applauds Councilman Costello for his creative approach toward establishing incentives for property owners to effectively collaborate with the Baltimore Police Department. Offering this type of rebate to those who register to participate in the CitiWatch Community Partnership Program and purchase/install private security cameras on the exterior of their dwelling or commercial establishment is a resourceful way of establishing a city-wide public-private partnership. We believe this program will significantly assist the Baltimore Police Department in deterring and solving a wide range of crimes that negatively impact the lives of residents, business leaders and visitors.

Thank you for allowing the Baltimore Police Department to comment on City Council Bill #20-0486. As mentioned above, the Baltimore Police Department supports **City Council Bill #20-0486**.

Sincerely,

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