



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor

**Michael S. Harrison**  
Police Commissioner

October 19, 2021

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

**RE: City Council Resolution #21-0112 Charter Amendment – Supplementary Criminal Apprehension and Conviction Fund**

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0112 for the purpose of For the establishing a continuing, nonlapsing Supplementary Criminal Apprehension and Conviction Fund, to be used exclusively to supplement rewards offered to the public for information leading to the apprehension, arrest, and conviction of criminal suspects; providing for certain modes of appropriation to this Fund; authorizing the Mayor and City Council, by Ordinance, to provide for the oversight, governance, and administration of this Fund; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection

As you likely know, we currently work with Metro Crime Stoppers (MCS) to provide cash rewards to individuals who provide information that leads to the arrest of individuals suspected of committing felonies including armed robbery, burglary, homicide, aggravated assault, rape, arson and auto theft.

Metro Crime Stoppers (MCS) is a volunteer organization that helps law enforcement agencies solve crime within the community. Established locally in 1981, it is a part of an international network of crime fighting organizations. They serve Baltimore City, Annapolis City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties.

Individuals may submit a tip by calling the MCS 24-Hour toll free Hotline, 1-866-7LOCKUP or online at <http://metrocrimestoppers.org>. Individuals are not required to give their names, but are assigned confidential code numbers. With that number, they identify themselves in future calls to MCS to obtain status reports about the case, and when eligible, arrange to receive the reward.

When tips are received, they are sent to the Local Law-Enforcement Agency where the crime took place and that agency investigates and reports their findings to MCS. All rewards are paid in cash. Between 2015 – 2020, MCS authorized payments of \$53,302 for tips that were determined to be instrumental in securing an indictment and arrest. In 2020, 21 rewards were authorized.

BPD supports the goal of the legislation which is to entice witnesses and those with information about crimes to come forward and share that information with the Department. Increased communication could certainly enhance the Department's ability to solve cases and hold perpetrators accountable. That said, we defer to the Law Department and the Department of Finance to determine whether this legislation is a viable option for Baltimore City. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Wirzberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Wirzberger, Esq.  
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Natwana Austin, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore City Council  
Natasha Mehu, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Nina Themelis, Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison, MOGR  
Eric Melancon, BPD Chief of Staff  
Andrew Smullian, BPD Deputy Chief of Staff