



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 23-0449 **Version:** 0 **Name:** Public Safety - Baltimore City Police Department
Type: Ordinance **Status:** Enacted
File created: 10/30/2023 **In control:** Baltimore City Council
On agenda: **Final action:** 1/25/2024
Enactment date: **Enactment #:** 24-311

Title: Public Safety - Baltimore City Police Department
For the purpose of repealing Subtitle 16 of the Public Laws of Baltimore City; creating a new article in the Baltimore City Code designated "Police Department"; defining certain terms; requiring the promulgation of certain rules and regulations; requiring the Police Commissioner to maintain the records of the Department; requiring that the Department be composed of a certain percentage of civilian employees; establishing a procedure for redistricting police districts; providing for collective bargaining and negotiations relating to direct compensation of police officers; establishing certain provisions relating to the qualifications, appointment, promotion, and probation of police officers; permitting police officers to earn witness fees; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the Baltimore City Police Department.

Sponsors: Mark Conway, Administration City Council, President Nicholas J. Mosby

Indexes: Police Department, Public Safety

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 23-0449~1st Reader, 2. Co CC #23-0449 Public Safety BPD JUFJ DITZ Nov 29 2023 (Toby Ditz), 3. SLEWITUS_Testimony2023_23-0449 (Sarah Lewitus), 4. Local Control Testimony - 23-0449 - TSH (Taylor Smith-Hams), 5. ELEWITUS_Testimony2023_23-0449 (Eric Lewitus), 6. BPD 23-0449, 7. 23-0449- Law, 8. 8 FINAL BILL SYNOPSIS - CC23-0449 (11.27.23), 9. COW ATTENDANCE SHEETS 11.29.23, 10. 10 COW - Hearing Notes CC23-0445 & CC23-0449 (11.29.23), 11. cc23-0449(2)~1st (BPD) Amendments, 12. cc23-0449(1)~1st (BPD) Amendments, 13. cc23-0449(1)~1st (Administration) Amendments, 14. 2nd Reader Amendments 23-0449(1)~1st (COW).pdf, 15. 23-0449~3rd Reader.pdf, 16. Voting Form CC23-0449, 17. COW - ATTENDANCE SHEET - Townhall Meeting #2 - 12-7-23, 18. 23-0449 Signed, 19. 23-0449 Completed Ordinance 24-311

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/29/2024	0	Mayor	Signed by Mayor	
12/18/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Advanced to 3rd Reader on same day	
12/18/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Approved and Sent to the Mayor	
12/18/2023	0	Committee of the Whole	Recommended Favorably with Amendment	
11/27/2023	0	Committee of the Whole	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
11/2/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to City Solicitor	
11/2/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Police Department	
11/2/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Sheriff's Office	
10/30/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Assigned	
10/30/2023	0	Baltimore City Council	Introduced	
10/30/2023	0	Committee of the Whole	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
10/30/2023	0	Committee of the Whole	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	

Explanation: Capitals indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*
City of Baltimore
Council Bill

Introduced by: Councilmember Conway
At the request of: The Administration (Office of the Mayor)

A Bill Entitled

An Ordinance concerning

Public Safety - Baltimore City Police Department

For the purpose of repealing Subtitle 16 of the Public Laws of Baltimore City; creating a new article in the Baltimore City Code designated “Police Department”; defining certain terms; requiring the promulgation of certain rules and regulations; requiring the Police Commissioner to maintain the records of the Department; requiring that the Department be composed of a certain percentage of civilian employees; establishing a procedure for redistricting police districts; providing for collective bargaining and negotiations relating to direct compensation of police officers; establishing certain provisions relating to the qualifications, appointment, promotion, and probation of police officers; permitting police officers to earn witness fees; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the Baltimore City Police Department.

By repealing

The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City
Subtitle 16 - Police Department
Sections 16-1 through 16-15, and 16-17 through 16-55
Article 4 - Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland
(Edition 1979, Supplement 1997, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)

By adding

Article 17 - Police Department
Sections 1-1 to 1-3 to be under the new subtitle designation
“Subtitle 1. General Provisions; Definitions”
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

By adding

Article 17 - Police Department
Sections 2-1 to 2-2 to be under the new subtitle designation
“Subtitle 2. Police Department”
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

By adding

Article 17 - Police Department
Sections 3-1 to 3-3 to be under the new subtitle designation
“Subtitle 3. Police Officers”
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That §§ 16-1 through 16-15 and §§ 16-17 through 16-55 of Subtitle 16 {“Police Department”} of the Code of Public Local Laws of Baltimore City are hereby repealed.

Section 2. Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That a new “Article 17 - Police Department” of the Baltimore City Code is enacted to read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 17. Police Department

Subtitle 1. General Provisions; Definitions

§ 1-1. Definitions.

(a) *In general.*

In this article, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(b) *Commissioner.*

“Commissioner” means the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City.

(c) *Department.*

“Department” means the Baltimore City Police Department.

(d) *Department staff.*

“Department staff” means an individual employed by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore assigned to work for the Department, whether a civilian or a police officer.

(e) *Police officer.*

“Police officer” means a person who is:

- (1) legally authorized to enforce the general criminal laws of the State;
- (2) legally authorized to enforce the criminal and civil laws of the City; and
- (3) an employee of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

§ 1-2. Rules and regulations.

Subject to Title 4 {“Administrative Procedure Act - Regulations”} of the City General Provisions Article, the Police Commissioner shall:

- (1) adopt rules and regulations to carry out this article;
- (2) adopt rules, regulations, orders, policies, or other directives:
 - (i) relating to or in connection with the administration of the Department; and

(ii) for the purpose of:

- (A) safeguarding the lives and safety of all individuals within the City;
- (B) protecting property within the City; and
- (C) assisting in securing to all individuals the equal protection of the law.

§ 1-3. Records.

Subject to Subtitle 10 {"Records Management"} of Article 1 of the City Code, the Police Commissioner shall:

- (1) designate a records officer for the Department to:
 - (i) serve as the Department liaison to the City Records Management Officer, as established under § 10-5 {"City Records Management Officer: In general"} of Article 1 of the City Code; and
 - (ii) assist the City Records Management Officer in carrying out the records management program for the Department;
- (2) on the request of the City Records Management Officer, prepare a record inventory;
- (3) cooperate with the City Records Management Officer in the preparation of record retention and disposition schedules for the Department; and
- (4) comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the City Records Management Officer.

Subtitle 2. Police Department

§ 2-1. Required percentage of civilian employees.

At least 20 percent of the Department shall be civilian employees.

§ 2-2. Redistricting.

(a) *Definitions.*

(1) *In general.*

In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) *District.*

"District" means a police district of the Department.

(3) *Plan.*

"Plan" means the proposal for the adjustment of district boundaries presented by the Mayor to the City Council for adoption or amendment by resolution.

(b) *Commissioner to prepare plan for reallocation of boundaries.*

To ensure that the resources of the Department are efficiently allocated, following each decennial census of the United States, the Commissioner shall:

- (1) prepare a proposal for the adjustment of the geographic boundaries of each district and the reallocation of the resources and personnel of the Department among the districts using:
 - (i) decennial census population and housing data of the United States Census Bureau;
 - (ii) district call volume trends;
 - (iii) district response times; and
 - (iv) any other information deemed necessary by the Commissioner;and
- (2) within 1 year from the issuance of the decennial census population and housing data by the United States Census Bureau, present a proposal for the adjustment of district boundaries to the Mayor.

(c) *Action by the Mayor.*

Upon receipt of a proposal from the Commissioner under subsection (b) of this section the Mayor shall:

- (1) review and revise the proposal for the adjustment of district boundaries, as appropriate; and
- (2) within 90 days of receipt of a proposal from the Commissioner submit a proposal for the adjustment of district boundaries to the City Council for adoption by resolution.

(d) *Action by the City Council.*

The plan, as it may be amended by the Council, must be approved by resolution of the Mayor and City Council within 180 days from the date the plan is introduced on the Council floor.

(e) *Effective date.*

The plan shall be effective 90 days from the date of enactment.

(f) *Failure to approve plan.*

If the plan is not approved in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, then the plan, as presented by the Mayor to the City Council, will go into effect on the day after the expiration of the time period set forth in subsection (e) of this section.

(g) *Commissioner to implement plan made effective.*

The Commissioner shall implement plan made effective under this section.

Subtitle 3. Police Officers

§ 3-1. Definitions.

(a) *In general.*

In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) *Certified exclusive representative.*

“Certified exclusive representative” means an employee organization certified by the Labor Commissioner as provided for in Article 12, § 4-3 {“Election of exclusive representative”} of the City Code.

(c) *Direct compensation.*

(1) *In general.*

“Direct compensation” means:

- (i) wages;
- (ii) salaries;
- (iii) longevity pay based on number of years worked for the Department;
- (iv) shift differential;
- (v) bonuses; and
- (vi) leave with monetary value.

(2) *Exclusions.*

“Direct compensation” does not include:

- (i) a pension or any benefit that is to be paid on or after an employee’s retirement or termination of employment; and
- (ii) Department policies and actions that do not relate to direct compensation, including:
 - (A) job security;
 - (B) disciplinary procedures;
 - (C) investigations and actions;
 - (D) promotions;
 - (E) deployment or scheduling, including eligibility and assignment to details and positions;
 - (F) loss of leave as provided in the general orders; and
 - (G) issues relating to eligibility for overtime compensation.

§ 3-2. Labor relations; collective bargaining.

(a) *Municipal Employee Relations Law to apply.*

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of Article 12 of the City Code as amended from time to time and any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto governing or relating to labor relations or collective bargaining with general municipal employees of the City shall apply to labor relations and collective bargaining between the City and Department staff.

(b) *Negotiations.*

- (1) Negotiations with a certified exclusive representative, on behalf of police officers, shall be conducted jointly by the Police Commissioner and the Labor Commissioner, or the designees of the Police Commissioner and the Labor Commissioner, on behalf of the employer.
- (2) An employee organization may not be denied certification as the exclusive representative of any police officers solely for the reason that it:
 - (i) permits both rank and file employees in addition to supervisory and professional employees to join its membership; or
 - (ii) affiliates with another employee organization that permits rank and file, supervisory, or professional employees to join its membership.

(c) *Right to request arbitration.*

- (1) If the certified exclusive representative and the Department have not reached a written agreement concerning all issues of direct compensation by March 1 of any year, either party may at any time thereafter request arbitration by a board of arbitration, as provided for in this subsection.
- (2) A request for arbitration by either the certified exclusive representative or the Department must be honored.

(d) *Board of arbitration; Composition.*

- (1) The board of arbitration shall be composed of 3 members.
- (2) Within 4 days of the request for arbitration:
 - (i) 1 member will be appointed by the Mayor; and
 - (ii) 1 member will be appointed jointly by the certified exclusive representative.
- (3) Within 8 days of the request for arbitration, 1 member will be appointed by the 2 members previously chosen under paragraph (2) of this subsection.
- (4) The member chosen by the 2 members described under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall serve as the chair of the board of arbitration.

(e) *Board of arbitration; List of arbitrators.*

(1) *In general.*

In accordance with the procedures of the American Arbitration Association, the member appointed to the board of arbitration under subsection (d)(3) of this section must be selected from a list of 7 arbitrators furnished by the American Arbitration Association.

(2) *Qualifications.*

All of the arbitrators on the list furnished by the American Arbitration Association under paragraph (1) of this subsection must be members of the National Academy of Arbitrators.

(f) *Chair of the board; Alternative selection process.*

If the 2 members previously appointed under subsection (d)(2) of this section do not mutually agree on the 3rd member, then:

- (1) the party requesting the arbitration shall first strike 1 name from the list furnished under subsection (e)(1) of this section; and then
- (2) the remaining party shall strike 1 name from the list; and
- (3) this process shall continue until 1 name remains, who shall be the 3rd member of the board of arbitration.

(g) *Board of arbitration; Powers.*

The board of arbitration shall have the power to:

- (1) administer oaths;
- (2) compel the attendance of witnesses; and
- (3) require the production of evidence by subpoena.

(h) *Board of arbitration; Procedure.*

(1) *Start of proceedings.*

The board of arbitration shall begin the arbitration proceedings within 7 days after the chair is selected.

(2) *Decision; 30-day time limit.*

The board of arbitration shall make its decision within 30 days.

(3) *Decision; Majority vote*

A decision by the board of arbitration shall be determined by a majority vote.

(4) *Time requirements; Discretion of the chair.*

For good cause the chair may extend any of the time requirements established by this subsection.

(i) *Proposals; Labor Commissioner*

Within 3 days after the selection of the chair of the board of arbitration, the Labor Commissioner or the Labor Commissioner's designee shall provide each member of the board of arbitration and all parties with a detailed itemization of the last proposal made by each of the respective parties during the negotiations with respect to issues of direct compensation.

(j) *Application of section; Exclusivity.*

- (1) The provisions of this section governing interest arbitration for police officers shall apply only to the terms of collective bargaining agreements directly relating to direct compensation.
- (2) The provisions of this section may not be construed as being contradictory to the provisions of the general orders.
- (3) If there is a dispute over whether an issue is an issue of direct compensation, the board of arbitration shall decide the issue and the decision by the board of arbitration is final and binding on both parties.

(k) *Decision; Factors.*

(1) *Factors.*

The board of arbitration shall identify the major issues in the dispute, review the positions of all parties, and base its decision on the following factors:

- (i) the lawful authority of the City;
- (ii) the financial conditions of the City;
- (iii) the stipulations of the parties;
- (iv) providing for direct compensation for employees involved in the arbitration proceeding;
- (v) the overall compensation and benefits paid to the employees involved in the arbitration proceeding, whether reached by a collective bargaining agreement or otherwise, including any increased cost to the City for providing the benefits;
- (vi) the terms and conditions of employment for other employees of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore including any changes to the terms and conditions for the period to be covered by the decision of the board of arbitration;
- (vii) the overall compensation and benefits of public safety employees in the State; and public safety employees in comparable out-of-state metropolitan political subdivisions as compared with private sector employees in the metropolitan Baltimore City area;
- (viii) factors that are normally used in the determination of wages and other benefits in the collective bargaining process, including:
 - (A) cost-of-living data; and
 - (B) consumer prices for goods and services
- (ix) the increases and decreases in the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the United States Department of Labor;
- (x) the public welfare, including the impact of the board of

arbitration's decision on the City's ability to continue providing services generally to the residents of the City; and

(xi) the terms of the existing collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the parties in the past.

(2) *Decision; Adverse effect on public services.*

Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this subsection, the board of arbitration may not render a decision relating to direct compensation that adversely impacts the City's ability to continue to fund other public services generally.

(1) *Decision; Specifications.*

(1) *Implementation of last proposal.*

The board of arbitration, after hearing witnesses and receiving and considering the written evidence that is submitted, shall issue a written decision that orders the implementation of the last proposal of 1 of the respective parties submitted in accordance with subsection (i) of this section.

(2) *Written decision; Consideration and application of factors..*

The board of arbitration shall issue a written decision that:

(i) demonstrates that all the factors set forth in subsection (1) of this section have been considered and applied; and

(ii) includes the evidence on record relied on in making the decision.

(3) *Finality of decision.*

(i) The decision of a majority of the members of the board of arbitration shall be final and binding on the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and on the certified employee organizations involved in the proceedings.

(ii) No appeal of the decision is allowed.

(iii) The decision constitutes:

(A) a mandate to the Mayor of Baltimore City with respect to the matters that can be remedied administratively by the Mayor; and

(B) a mandate to the Board of Estimates and the City Council with respect to the matters which require legislative action necessary to implement the decision of the board of arbitration.

(4) *Required legislative action.*

Legislation for matters that require legislative action for implementation shall be enacted within 45 days following the date of the arbitration decision.

(5) *Salaries and wage scales; Ordinance of Estimates.*

The amounts of salaries and wage scales determined by the final decision of the board of arbitration

shall be included in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates in accordance with Article VI, § 12(b) {"Multi-year collective bargaining agreements"} of the City Charter.

(m) *Cost of arbitration.*

The cost of the arbitration proceedings, including the cost for a court reporter, provided under this section shall be paid equally by the parties involved.

§ 3-2. Police officers - Qualifications, appointment, promotion, probation.

(a) *Examinations.*

(1) *In general.*

The Department shall administer competitive examinations and such other tests as may be necessary to ascertain the relative qualifications for a:

- (i) candidate for appointment at the entry level; and
- (ii) candidate for promotional appointment within the Department.

(2) *Examination requirements.*

Examinations shall:

- (i) be public;
- (ii) fairly test the capacity and fitness of the candidate to discharge the duties of the position the candidate is seeking; and
- (iii) be prepared with guidance from a nationally-recognized police or testing group, as designated by the Commissioner.

(3) *Preparation of graded lists.*

The Department shall prepare graded lists of qualified candidates determined from the examinations and other tests administered under this subsection.

(b) *Appointments at the entrance level.*

(1) *Eligibility list.*

The Department shall prepare an eligibility list that ranks qualified candidates in order from highest to lowest based on examination and test scores.

(2) *Rule of 5.*

(i) *In general.*

The Commissioner shall make appointments at the entrance level from the 5 highest scoring candidates on the eligibility list prepared under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(ii) *Continuing use of eligibility list.*

After the first appointment is made, as prescribed by subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the Commissioner shall continue to fill available entry level positions with those candidates that have the next 5 highest scores on the eligibility list.

(3) *Term of eligibility list.*

- (i) Each eligibility list created under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be used for longer than 1 year, unless the list is extended upon the request of the Commissioner.
- (ii) The Commissioner may not extend the use of an eligibility list for more than 2 years, dating from the time that the list was first created.

(4) *Removing a candidate from the eligibility list.*

(i) *In general.*

The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee may not remove a candidate from an eligibility list.

(ii) *Exceptions.*

The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee may remove a candidate from an eligibility list if the candidate:

- (A) is no longer available for appointment;
- (B) wilfully misrepresented a material fact in the candidate's application for the position; or
- (C) is convicted of a crime after the eligibility list is created.

(5) *Inspection of eligibility list.*

(i) *Public inspection.*

An eligibility list is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.

(ii) *Inspection by Commissioner and applicant.*

The eligibility list, examination papers, and other materials used in determining a candidate's eligibility may be inspected by:

- (A) the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee; and
- (B) the individual applicant, if the materials pertain to the individual's application.

(c) *Promotional appointments.*

(1) *Promotion list.*

The Department shall prepare a promotion list that ranks qualified candidates in order from highest to lowest based on examination and test scores.

(2) *25 percent rule.*

(i) *In general.*

The Commissioner shall make a promotional appointment from the candidates that are the highest scoring 25 percent of candidates on the promotion list prepared under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(ii) *Calculation of 25 percent.*

(A) *In general.*

The top 25 percent of candidates is the quartile of candidates on the promotion list that score the highest.

(B) *Timing of calculation.*

The 25 percent highest scoring candidates shall be calculated when the promotion list is created and shall remain fixed for the life of the promotion list.

(iii) *Continuing use of promotion list.*

After the first promotion is made, as prescribed by subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the Commissioner shall fill the next vacancy in the Department, if any, from the highest scoring remaining and available candidate on the promotion list.

(3) *Exhaustion of promotion list.*

All promotional appointments made after the creation of a promotion list must be made in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection until the eligible list is exhausted by such appointments.

(4) *Term of promotion list.*

- (i) Each promotion list created under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be used for longer than 1 year, unless the list is extended upon the request of the Commissioner.
- (ii) The Commissioner may not extend the use of a promotion list for more than 2 years, dating from the time that the list was first created.

(5) *Removing a candidate from the promotion list.*

(i) *In general.*

The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee may not remove a candidate from an promotion list.

(ii) *Exceptions.*

The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee may remove a candidate from an promotion list, if:

- (A) the candidate is no longer available for appointment; or
- (B) between the time the candidate applied for the promotion and

the time in which the candidate is to be selected for the promotion, a misconduct complaint against the candidate for which the punishment could be termination has been received and sustained by the board or the Department's disciplinary review committee.

(6) *Inspection of promotion list.*

(i) *Public inspection.*

A promotion list is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.

(ii) *Inspection by Commissioner and applicant.*

The promotion list, examination papers, and other materials used in determining a candidate's eligibility may be inspected by:

- (A) the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee; and
- (B) the individual applicant, as limited to those materials that pertain to their application.

(d) *Appointments without examination.*

- (i) Notwithstanding any provisions of this subtitle, the Commissioner may make any appointment to the Department above the rank of lieutenant without examination.
- (ii) No position above the rank of lieutenant shall be filled by a police officer within the Department of a rank less than lieutenant.
- (iii) Where any such appointment is made, the police officer so appointed shall, upon the termination of service in such position, be returned to the rank from which the police officer was elevated, or to such higher rank as the police officer became eligible to serve in during the appointment.

(e) *Probation.*

Any provisions relating to the Department contained in §§ 94 to 103 of Article VII of the City Charter notwithstanding, all appointments and promotional appointments shall be probationary in accordance with the following rules:

- (1) During the 1st year, all appointments to the Department at the entrance level of civilian employees shall be known and regarded as probationary.
- (2) All appointments of a police officer to the Department shall, during the 1st year of service following completion of entrance level training, be known and regarded as probationary.
- (3) At any time during the 1-year probationary period for either a civilian employee or a police officer the appointee's employment may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, be forthwith terminated without the necessity for a hearing, and when so terminated the appointee shall cease to be a member of the Department, if:
 - (i) the services of an appointee are not satisfactory to the Commissioner; or
 - (ii) the appointee is not certified by the police physician as

physically qualified to continue to discharge the appointed individual's duties.

- (4) All promotional appointees, both civilian employees and police officers, shall be probationary for 1 year after which, if the appointee's services are satisfactory to the Commissioner, and the appointee is physically able to perform the duties of the appointee's rank, grade, or position, as certified by the police physician, the promotional appointment shall be made permanent.
- (5) If, in the judgment of the Commissioner the services of a promotional appointee have not been satisfactory or the appointee is not physically qualified for the promotional appointment, the appointee shall be reduced to the rank, grade, or position from which the appointee was promoted.

§ 3-3. Witness fees.

(a) *In general.*

Police officers below the rank of captain may receive witness fees for time spent off-duty as a witness in connection with official duties, including appearances in or before:

- (1) a federal court;
- (2) a State court;
- (3) a duly constituted grand jury; or
- (4) the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.

(b) *Compensation.*

(1) *In general.*

Witness fees paid to a police officer shall be in addition to all other compensation received as authorized by law.

(2) *Rules and regulations; Board of Estimates*

The Board of Estimates shall establish rules and regulations governing the payment of witness fees to police officers as authorized under subsection (a) of this section.

Section 3. And be it further ordained, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is enacted.