

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1465
Judiciary

(Delegate Hayes)

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore City - Police Community Policing Steering Committee

This bill establishes the Baltimore City Police Community Policing Steering Committee. The committee, in cooperation with the Baltimore City Police Department, must develop annually a Baltimore City Police Department Community Interaction Recommendations Report, which must focus on making recommendations to create consistent positive interactions between police officers and community residents. The bill establishes requirements for the report. By November 15 annually, the committee must submit the report for the following calendar year to the mayor, the city council, and the members of the Baltimore City House and Senate delegations to the Maryland General Assembly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Local expenditures for the Baltimore City Police Department increase to the extent it needs to hire additional staff to annually develop and submit the required report. Local revenues are not affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The report must:

- recommend that police officers actively participate in neighborhood meetings and events that will bring police together with a wide array of city residents;

- identify ways to help build long-term consistent interaction between police officers and youth in Baltimore's schools, recreation centers, and other youth programs;
- identify ways that police officers can interact directly with members of the reentry community in a positive manner;
- recommend ways that emphasis can be placed on creating positive interactions with Baltimore's African American, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, domestic violence victim, public housing, and immigrant and refugee communities;
- recommend ways that emphasis can be placed on improving relationships between the police department and the small business community;
- provide ideas for citizen-involved training for police officers;
- list and evaluate nonprofit and nonlaw enforcement partnerships;
- include recommendations for homeless and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community interactions;
- include recommendations on how to recruit and retain city residents as police officers; and
- identify ways to form and maintain lasting and coordinated relationships with colleges and universities located in Baltimore City, including Morgan State University and Coppin State University.

The bill establishes provisions relating to the membership of the committee and the terms of the committee members. The committee must (1) establish governance procedures and subcommittee structure by majority vote and (2) annually elect a chair. The committee must hold public meetings at least once quarterly and is subject to open meeting laws.

Current Law: Chapter 519 of 2016 requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to develop best practices for the establishment and implementation of a community policing program in each jurisdiction. Each local law enforcement agency must adopt a community policing program in accordance with best practices developed by MPTSC. Each local law enforcement agency must post a detailed description of the local law enforcement agency's community policing program on the Internet and annually file a detailed description of the local law enforcement agency's community policing program with MPTSC.

MPTSC must annually review each community policing program filed and provide each agency with any comments that the commission has to improve the agency's community policing program.

Background: Although the Baltimore City Police Department is a State agency, the State does not control the appointment or removal of the police commissioner and is not responsible for providing funding for the operations of the police department. However,

the State retains the ability to amend the law relating to the department in order to implement policy changes.

According to a January 2017 [*Report on Community Policing*](#) by the Baltimore City Police Department, as of December 1, 2016, there were 2,528 sworn police officers in the department. Between December 1, 2015, and December 1, 2016, the department received 95 excessive force complaints. As of December 1, 2016, there were 46 officers suspended with pay and 3 officers suspended without pay. The report states that the department's Community Collaboration Division is primarily responsible for the department's regular, day-to-day community policing policies and strategies and that the division helps establish and maintain partnerships between the department and the communities it serves.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2017
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