



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor

MICHAEL S. HARRISON
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: House Bill 1408 Public Safety – Baltimore City – P.R.O.T.E.C.T. (Public Resources Organizing to End Crime Together Program)

DATE: March 3, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** House Bill 1408.

House Bill 14808 seeks to maximize the use of State, Local and community resources to combat neighborhood decline in the City of Baltimore and throughout the State by supporting comprehensive strategies to reduce crime and fear in those communities and ensure that Baltimore Police Department sworn officers are utilized in direct public safety roles. To achieve those goals, the bill mandates the following:

- ✓ The Department of State Police, the Division of Parole and Probation and the Department of Juvenile Services must establish and operate a warrant apprehension task force partnership;
- ✓ The Baltimore Police Department, Department of Juvenile Services and the Division of Parole and Probation must establish and operate collaborative district officer supervision teams that provide intensive supervision, including increased home visits of adult and juvenile violent offenders;
- ✓ The Department of State Police shall extend its jurisdiction for traffic patrol and accident investigations into highways and streets that serve as significant entry and exit corridors to Baltimore City;
- ✓ The Baltimore City Juvenile Booking Facility and the Baltimore Detention Center shall be staffed by the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, respectively;
- ✓ The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Department of State Police shall select 10 high crime micro-zones within the state and create an "End the Violence" P.R.O.T.E.C.T. coordinator for each zone; and
- ✓ For Fiscal Year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include an annual appropriation sufficient to fully fund the requirements of § 4-1501 of this subtitle and at least \$500,000 to be used by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to hire and manage the "End the Violence" P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Coordinators established under § 4-1502 of this subtitle.

The Baltimore Police Department considers the Department of State Police, the Division of Parole and Probation, the Department of Juvenile Services and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to be strong allies and trusted partners in the effort to reduce crime in Baltimore City. We are grateful for their current level of support as well as their steadfast commitment to the coordination of efforts to bring about sustained reductions in violence.

This bill further develops the resource sharing and cooperative efforts that are already in place and lays out the frame work for a smart, multi-disciplinary approach to fighting crime and maximizing the resources of the Baltimore Police Department so that we can deter and solve crime more effectively and efficiently.

We are heartened by the fact that all of our leaders are committed to reducing crime throughout Maryland and more specifically within Baltimore City. Therefore, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1408 and look forward to working with our law enforcement partners and the General Assembly to establish a work plan to accomplish the goals set out within this legislation.