



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 670

February 9, 2021

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 670 – Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendments** House Bill 670.

HB 670 incorporates recommendations made by the House Workgroup on Police Reform and Accountability. The workgroup tirelessly held briefings and meetings throughout the interim to hear from stakeholders with the goal of putting together a comprehensive package. We commend the work of the body and the leadership taken to address the pressing issue of police reform and accountability.

Mayor Brandon M. Scott came into the office on a platform of transforming Baltimore City's approach to policing and public safety. Under his watch the BCA is committed to fully implementing the consent decree between the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and the United State Department of Justice. The BPD, under the consent decree and the leadership of Commissioner Michael Harrison, has made great strides towards repairing issues caused by corruption, rogue cops, inappropriate behavior, and mismanagement of tax payer dollars as well as important steps towards addressing community concerns and regaining the community's trust. Many BPD policies including those for use of force, community policing, and body worn cameras are now nationally recognized standards.

The BCA strongly supports the goals of HB 670. We ask that consideration be made to BPD proposed amendments to ensure Baltimore City could continue to be at the forefront of police reform under our local leadership goals and the consent decree. We also ask that deference be given to the BCA in regards to local control which we will be pursuing in separate legislation as an administration priority this session. We look forward to partnering with the committee and fellow stakeholders to advance police reform in Maryland.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable with amendments** report on House Bill 670.

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