

**Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Avenue
Takoma Park, Md 20912**

February 25, 2022

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

SB752/HB1044 Public Safety - Use of Force Incident Reports

***Presbyterians for Police Transformation
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (TPPC)
Takoma Park, Md 20912***

Presbyterians for Police Transformation is pleased to support the Public Safety - Use of Force Incident Reports Act. This bill expands requirements for reporting use of force incidents by both police/law enforcement officers, and for making data on such incidents available to the public.

TPPC has a Racial Mindfulness Ministry and one year ago we formed Presbyterians for Police Transformation to study and advocate for changes in policing that will reduce violent engagement between police and members of the public, particularly racial minorities. These are our neighbors, friends and congregants.

We believe that greater documentation and transparency regarding use of force incidents is a vital strategy for reducing incidents of violence that kill and injure members of the public, particularly minorities and people with mental illness. In requiring that officers involved in such incidents file same-day reports with detailed information including demographic data, and in mandating regular, public reporting of aggregate data from these reports, SB752 and HB1044 provide a critical path to uncovering bias, increasing accountability and establishing the level of transparency that can help restore trust in our public safety system. A central mission of our church is to promote equality and social justice and for this reason we are urging adoption of this measure

Presbyterians for Police Transformation urge passage of SB752/HB1044.