



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

February 2, 2024

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland State Senate
c/o Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 0195 - Juveniles – Arrest by Law Enforcement – Report to Local Department of Social Services

Dear Senator Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bowie to express our support for Senate Bill 0195, a critical piece of legislation that addresses the reporting requirements for law enforcement officers in cases involving the arrest of a child under a certain age, specifically for the purpose of a neglect investigation.

The well-being of children is a matter of utmost importance to our community, and Senate Bill 0195 addresses a gap in current procedures by requiring law enforcement officers to make a report to a local department of social services after arresting a child under a certain age. This provision is essential for initiating timely neglect investigations and ensuring that vulnerable children receive the necessary support and protection.

By mandating such reporting, the bill promotes collaboration between law enforcement and social services agencies, facilitating a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing potential cases of neglect involving young children. This proactive step aligns with our commitment to safeguarding the welfare of children in the City of Bowie.

As representatives of our community, we believe that Senate Bill 0195 will contribute significantly to the well-being of our youngest residents by enhancing the communication and cooperation between law enforcement and social services agencies. This legislation reflects our shared commitment to a child-centric approach that prioritizes their safety and ensures that appropriate interventions are made in cases of potential neglect.

We urge the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to support Senate Bill 0195 and contribute to the creation of a more effective and responsive system for addressing cases involving the arrest of young children.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we appreciate your continued efforts to enact legislation that protects and supports the welfare of children in our community and throughout the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Adams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bowie City Council
Timothy J. Adams
Mayor