



**Calvin J. Washington Sr.**  
*President*  
**Anthony Ayers**  
*Vice President*  
**Anthony N. Rease,**  
*Secretary*  
**Linwood Alston**  
*Treasurer*  
**Stanford A. Moore Jr.**  
*Executive Member At Large*  
**Darryl Morgan**  
*Sgt and Arms*

---

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

**Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 48 – Chief Linwood Alston**

Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am Chief Linwood Alston, the Treasurer of the Minority Chiefs' Alliance of Maryland and the Chief of Police for the City of Mount Rainier. I come before you today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 48.

One of the key reasons for endorsing this bill is the potential enrichment of law enforcement agencies through the inclusion of permanent residents as police officers. Permanent residents as police officers may possess a deeper connection and understanding of immigrant communities, fostering enhanced community engagement and communication. This dynamic can contribute to a sense of trust and legitimacy between law enforcement and diverse populations.

In regions grappling with shortages of qualified candidates for law enforcement positions, allowing permanent residents to apply can serve as a strategic solution to staffing challenges, particularly in areas with a high demand for law enforcement services.

Permanent residents that are honorably discharged veterans, and who meet necessary qualifications and training standards can bring valuable skills to law enforcement. Their expertise, language proficiency, and unique perspectives may enhance the overall effectiveness of the police force, and community policing.

A police force that mirrors the diversity of the community it serves may be better equipped to address a wide range of issues.



**Calvin J. Washington Sr.**

*President*

**Anthony Ayers**

*Vice President*

**Anthony N. Rease,**

*Secretary*

**Linwood Alston**

*Treasurer*

**Stanford A. Moore Jr.**

*Executive Member At Large*

**Darryl Morgan**

*Sgt and Arms*

Allowing permanent residents to serve as police officers not only encourages a sense of belonging and integration within society but also provides a pathway for individuals to demonstrate their commitment to the community while pursuing legal pathways to citizenship.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 48 represents a significant step towards fostering a more inclusive, diverse, and effective law enforcement community. I urge you to support this crucial legislation for the betterment of our communities and the advancement of public safety in the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linwood C. Alston

Treasurer

Minority Chiefs' Alliance of Maryland