



January 24, 2024

Bill: SB 48: Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Police Officer Certification - Eligibility

Position: Support

The City of Gaithersburg writes to support SB48 – Police Training and Standards Commission– Police Officer Certification-Eligibility. If enacted, this legislation would authorize a local government to allow non-citizens and permanent legal residents to become police officers. This bill establishes necessary measures for expanding law enforcement presence within communities which will create a positive impact on the lives of Maryland residents and boost the economy while creating more jobs.

We believe that this bill is a significant step towards better constituent services that will provide positive outcomes of community policing in our Maryland communities. Officers from different backgrounds can relate to and understand the diverse needs and concerns of various communities, fostering positive relationship. The expansion of a diverse law enforcement task force will help local governments to better monitor and fairly enforce regulations, ultimately promoting a peaceful living environment. Moreover, the establishment of diversity and inclusion in our law enforcement system will better represent our diverse communities. Allowing non-citizens and legal permanent residents to serve and provide necessary safeguards to ensure that the law is enforced fairly and accurately.

This bill is also crucial for the integrity and well-being of Maryland residents, as diversity and inclusion in our law enforcement has been linked to enhanced cultural competence and reduced bias and stereotyping. The provisions in SB48 will enable local governments to better control and monitor the sources of diverse issues and providing a safer and more comfortable living environment for residents of all backgrounds.

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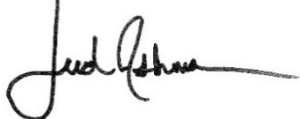
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CITY MANAGER
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We know this legislation will take a significant step towards community trust, economic mobility, and an increase in community engagement in Maryland communities. Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on SB48. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Therese Hessler, at therese@ashlargr.com. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg