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**TESTIMONY ON SB894 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Arlene Ogurick

My name is Arlene Ogurick and I am a resident of District 41. I am supporting testimony in support of SB894, Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner.

I am a member of the League of Women Voters and Chesapeake Climate Action Network. As a life-long Baltimore City, I believe it is past time to bring Baltimore's relation to its Police Department into the 21st century.

We are one of the last 2 cities in the country without local control. Times have changed since 1860, when Maryland law makers seized control of BPD during bloody fighting between pro-slavery Democratic Party and xenophobic Know-Nothing Party which ran City Hall and Police Dept.

Since then, these changes have included:

- 1896 - Klondike Gold Rush
- 1903 - Flight of the Wright Brothers
- 1920 - 19th amendment to US Constitution grants women the right to vote
- 1969 - Neil Armstrong walks on the moon
- 2007 - Apple i-phone introduced

AND still in 2024 residents of Baltimore, MD do not have control of our local police department! Baltimoreans are tired, frustrated and appalled at this continuing injustice. State legislators, you must correct this situation. On November 12, 2022 - 80% of voting Baltimoreans approved ballot Question H supporting local control of BPD. This issue is about racial justice, police accountability and representative democracy. Please support Baltimore constituents' clearly stated desire. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB894.**