



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Richard J. Worley
Police Commissioner

February 21, 2023

TO: The Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Erin Murphy, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Department

RE: Senate Bill 774- Public Safety- Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program

DATE: February 21, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee: Please be advised that the Baltimore City Police Department supports Senate Bill 774. This legislation aims to establish a security grant fund for areas with high concentration of establishments licensed to sell alcohol with on site consumption, establishments licensed to have on site entertainment, that also encounter high pedestrian traffic and high calls for service and crime.

The need for this bill often presents itself in the news media. In the past few weeks, there have been acts of violence in multiple well known “entertainment areas” in Baltimore City. The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) is supportive and open to any measure that provides extra assistance in patrol, emergency response, and efforts to keep Baltimoreans and visitors safe. SB774 seeks to establish a program for funding that allows community associations, non-profit organizations, and local government to apply for security assistance in eligible areas. Eligibility is determined by the density establishments licensed for the sale of alcohol and entertainment that also consistently have high calls for service or crime.

The Baltimore Police Department requests a favorable report for SB 774.