



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB0533**

February 27, 2024

**TO:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 533 – County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 533.

This bill authorizes local governing bodies for counties, including Baltimore City, by local law, to authorize its police accountability board to exercise investigatory and subpoena powers. Police accountability boards may conduct an investigation of a complaint of police misconduct concurrently with a law enforcement agency investigating the complaint.

Providing subpoena power to the Police Accountability Board will make it easier and faster for the Baltimore Police Department to provide documents to the Police Accountability Board because the requests would no longer fall within the Public Information Act, which requires extensive document review before production. Having subpoena power also sends a strong message that the government welcomes transparency. Additionally, allowing the Police Accountability Board to conduct concurrent investigations may produce more robust analysis and information gathering than the current process without that authority.

This legislation is enabling in nature, which allows for each jurisdiction to determine what level of additional power it would like to provide to its respective Police Accountability Board.

For those reasons, the Baltimore City Administration **supports** the passage of HB 533.