



Perryville Police Department

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*Robert S. Nitz
Chief of Police*

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*Michelle Linkey
Mayor*

February 10, 2025

RE: Written testimony in support of SB 625

To the Committee on Judicial Proceedings,

Please accept this written testimony in support of SB 625; Police Accountability - Investigation Records Relating to Unfounded and Exonerated Complaints. I apologize for not appearing in person to testify; I am currently attending the prestigious FBI National Academy, a training program designed to provide the most professional law enforcement executive services to my agency and residents within my jurisdiction.

I emphatically support this bill not only for the officers under my charge, but for all law enforcement throughout the State of Maryland. Our public safety professionals routinely face adversity when performing their sworn duties in protecting all citizens. Allowing them a mechanism to expunge false and frivolous complaints from their files is only fair and just. Even defendants in criminal proceedings are afforded the right to have their record expunged. All too often, complaints are lodged against officers, just for doing their job. These false complaints are nothing more than a means of retaliation for in many instances, the complainants' bad behavior. I can speak to at least 4 complaints received over the past 12 months that were in fact false and without merit. These complaints were investigated thoroughly and sent to the Administrative Charging Committee for the county, who in turn determined them UNFOUNDED, exonerating the officers. Without the mechanism of expungement, these complaints remain in their file for life and open for inspection.

In no way am I advocating for the dismissal of any sustained complaint, because in the end, not one good police officer wants a bad one around. There merely needs to be a means for vacating the files of our good, dedicated and hard-working officers of these frivolous complaints.

I urge you and the legislative body to take a positive position on this matter and vote favorably, moving this bill forward in the session. Thank you for your time and attention in reviewing this important and necessary piece of legislation.

Professionally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Nitz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert S. Nitz, Chief of Police