



**TESTIMONY REQUESTING
AMENDMENTS TO SB 533
(Public Safety – Police Accountability – Time Limit for
Filing Administrative Charges)
March 21, 2025**

Submitted by:

Robert Landau
For SSJC
Gaithersburg, MD
RLandau806@gmail.com

The Silver Spring Justice Coalition (SSJC) is a coalition of community members, faith groups, and civil and human rights organizations from throughout Montgomery County committed to eliminating harm caused by police, ensuring police transparency and accountability, and empowering those communities most affected by policing.

SSJC has been closely involved in the passage of the Maryland Police Accountability Act (MPAA) and its enabling legislation in Montgomery County and around the state. As advocates for greater police accountability and transparency, we closely follow the work of the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) in Montgomery County and ACCs around the state.

First, we request that you amend SB 533 to guarantee that ACCs will have at least 30 days to examine the law enforcement agency (LEA) investigative report and related documents and issue a decision. SSJC has testified on several occasions that the one-year and one-day deadline (One-Year Deadline) for ACC decisions – measured from the date a complaint is filed – does not guarantee the ACC sufficient time to examine the LEA investigative report and related documents such as body-worn camera recordings and issue a decision – particularly when an LEA takes up virtually all of the One-Year Deadline. In particular, more than half of the cases sent by Baltimore City LEAs to the Baltimore City ACC came to the ACC within 15 days of the One-Year Deadline. That is proof enough to warrant an amendment to HB 238 to require that every ACC is given at least 30 days to examine a case before having to issue a decision. The amendment should also give the ACC extra time if it has follow-up questions that they need answered.

Secondly, the Committee should fix the end of subsection (c) by providing that the One-Year Deadline clock begins after the later of the filing of a complaint by a citizen or the date that the appropriate official employed by the law enforcement agency became aware of the incident.

Alternatively, we would accept restoring (as originally required by the MPAA) having the One-Year Deadline clock begin after the “filing of a complaint by a citizen.”

The Committee should not adopt the change made by the House in subsection (c) of HB 238, which strikes the introductory phase: “Except as provided in Subsection (e) of this section, for an incident involving a member of the public and a police officer, the” The ACC must have access to all pertinent information, including the results of a criminal investigation. There is no reason to treat LEA-initiated and civilian-initiated complaints differently and, in fact, every reason to ensure that the ACC’s analysis can be as robust as possible, which cannot happen if a criminal case is ongoing and the One-Year Deadline forces an ACC to issue a decision before they have all pertinent information.

In short, we support the amendments requested by the ACLU and the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability.

Please let me know if you have any questions in this regard.