



Zeke Cohen

Councilmember

First District

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March 5, 2020

Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Support of House Bill 1555: Baltimore City – Members of the Command Staff of the Police Department – Residency Requirements

Chair Maggie McIntosh and Vice-Chair Michael A. Jackson,

I write to you today in **support** of House Bill 1555. The members of the Baltimore City Police Department continue to answer the call to perform difficult tasks and continue to be a crucial part of the community. A concern is that the members of the Department are not completely knowledgeable of the communities in which they serve. Without living around their place of work, they have not become fully active members within the community.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Mayor and the City Council of Baltimore to require certain at-will supervisory members of the Baltimore City Police Department to reside within the State, Baltimore City, or within a certain distance from either the City or the State as a condition of employment. These at-will supervisory members will include the head of a unit of the Department or one who reports directly to the head of a unit of the department. These members include both civilian employees and police officers.

This shall be first enacted or adopted by the Mayor and the City Council of Baltimore. If enacted, these stipulations would not affect any individual employed by the Baltimore City Police Department before the effective date of the local law, ordinance, or policy.

In efforts to build more trust between at-will supervisory members and the community, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of House Bill 1555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zeke Cohen".

Councilmember Zeke Cohen

CHAIR: EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE