



**Chair:**

Labor Committee

**Vice-Chair:**

Land Use Committee

**Member:**

Budget and Appropriations Committee

Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

Judiciary Committee

Legislative Investigations Committee

Public Safety Committee

March 5, 2020

Members of the Appropriations Committee

House Office Building

Room 121

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to register my support for House Bill (HB) 1555, authored by Delegate Melissa Wells. HB1555 will officially authorize Baltimore City to create residency requirements for the command staff of the police department.

I knocked on thousands of doors in East Baltimore in the 13th District. Many of the residents talked about jobs and fighting for the working poor and middle class. Because there is not a residency requirement for police officers we are losing people to the surrounding suburbs. So many people have fled the city due to high taxes, crime and now years of decay. I want to discourage out-migration, and provide employment to city residents, and keep municipal salaries circulating in the local economy.

In order to make Baltimore a thriving city again, characterized by low unemployment, an increased tax base and a developing city starting to require residency requirements for those in supervisory positions is a step in the right direction. Leadership comes from the top down and if our leaders are working, buying homes, and spending their money in Baltimore City there would be less abandoned homes, the number of children attending public school would increase and property taxes could decrease. If people are not living in the city they are less likely to venture in the city during their off times, which means there is less revenue coming in the city.

Places like Chicago and Atlanta see police officers, firefighters, and teachers as neighborhood anchors, and as Maryland legislators we should also see the value in that too. Our top priority should be finding answers to keep not only the people mentioned above but all city employees as residents.

In closing, please support HB155 to give our counties and municipalities an attempt to address unemployment and to help win back tax payers and spenders to the city.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Sneed".

Councilwoman Shannon Sneed