

Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

John W. Anderson, Sheriff

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To: Senate Finance Committee
From: John W. Anderson, Sheriff of Baltimore City *JWA*
Re: SB823 - Sheriff of Baltimore City - Salaries and Collective Bargaining – Sen. McCray
Date: February 28, 2020
Position: Support

As Sheriff of Baltimore City, I write to express my full support for Senate Bill 823, sponsored by Senator Cory McCray (District 45), authorizing the collective bargaining for the sworn law enforcement employees of the Sheriff's Office of Baltimore City. I support the rights of workers to organize and absolutely support that right for our employees. Additionally, this past Monday evening, the Baltimore City Council unanimously passed resolution 20-0200R, which requests state action to enable the law enforcement employees of our office to collectively bargain their wages and related matters.

Over multiple mayoral administrations, it has been difficult to advance the wages and benefits of the employees of the Sheriff's Office because of the unique quasi-state/city structure governing the agency and creating an undefined and vague path for addressing the matter. Current law enforcement officers employed by the Sheriff's Office are compensated at rates uncompetitive with comparable positions and law enforcement agencies. This challenge limits my ability as the Sheriff to recruit and retain qualified deputy sheriffs and court security officers.

The employees of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office do an excellent job enforcing the law while maintaining the public's trust. As Sheriff, I ask you to support these hardworking law enforcement employees and provide them with a pathway for negotiating a fair and equitable salary and benefits package.

I thank Senator McCray, Chairman Hayes, the members of our esteemed senate delegation, and you, the members of the Senate Finance Committee, for your leadership in considering this legislation and your ongoing support of the Sheriff's Office of Baltimore City. We appreciate your understanding of the service we provide by protecting the courts, conducting community patrols, enforcing civil law, serving warrants and domestic violence protective, among the many other important functions of the Sheriff's Office.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.