

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Chief of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department (UMBPD) I am writing to respectfully request amendments to **HB934 - Public Safety -9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System** that will help the UMBPD protect the campus and community of UMB.

UMPD is a full service police agency providing a wide variety of services for the community, including:

- 24-hour uniformed patrols by sworn police staff and supported by non-sworn security staff
- Vehicle, Segway, bicycle, and foot patrols to deter and prevent criminal activity, and to increase responsiveness and readiness during routine calls for service or in the event of an emergency
- An on-campus Communications Center that dispatches emergency and non-emergency calls 24-hours a day
- Police Records services
- A Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST)

Currently, the UMBPD serves approximately 6,700 students and 7,400 faculty and staff at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. As of September 2019, the Department is funded to employ 60 police officers, 83 security personnel, nine police communications operators, and eight administrative employees. The Department continues to build and strengthen community and public safety partnerships in order to assist in accomplishing the mission of promoting a safe and secure environment. Police and security conduct patrol, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, and community policing with both on-campus and off-campus stakeholders.

The UMBPD's history goes back to 1948, where security officers were designated to keep the campus safe. In 1975, the first police officers were sworn-in. In June of 1993, a new concurrent jurisdiction agreement was signed with the Baltimore Police Department that still holds today. This agreement granted the UMBPD the same authority and power as the Baltimore Police Department within the immediate area including UMB's campus.

April 16, 2007 (Virginia Tech) is a date that changed our approach to maintaining safety, not only in our country at-large, but on our college and university campuses as well. Recent incidents throughout our country along with concerns about active shooter incidents remind us that university police departments play a vital and necessary role as first responders to incidents that happen on campus.

Therefore, we would respectfully request that the bill be amended in the following fashion:

PAGE 4 - LINE 25 - INSERT "employee of **STATE PUBLIC SAFETY ENTITY OR** an employee of a county public safety answering point, or an employee working in a county public safety answering point....."

Justification:

This definition would include any 911 tele-communicator employed by a state agency such as UMB.

PAGE 6 - LINE 10 - DELETE BRACKETS AROUND - [appropriate public safety agencies]

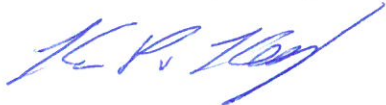
or

PAGE 6 - LINE 14 - INSERT "*An appropriate state emergency communications center responsible for the delivery of public safety services on a state university campus or facility.*"

Justification:

Given our Clery reporting mandate as well as our overall mission to ensure the safety of the students, faculty, staff and visitors to our campus, UMB needs to ensure that incident and response data is shared with all public safety entities that request it such as our UMB Police Department. This language would ensure that PSAPs share incident data with the relevant public safety partners such as UMBPD.

Safety is a fundamental factor in the educational environment at colleges and universities. This need obligates government, university, and public safety actors at all levels to ensure that education is accessible and safe for all. UMB and other public universities in the state of Maryland work to maintain educational environments that are safe and conducive to learning. Making the above changes to HB934 will allow campus police first responders like UMBPD the ability to respond quickly and effectively to incidents that occur on our campus.



Kevin P. Kelly
Chief Government Affairs Officer
University of Maryland Baltimore