

John Bullock, PhD
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The Baltimore City Council

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

January 15, 2020

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing this testimony to express my full support of **Senate Bill 72: Baltimore City - Members of the Command Staff of the Police Department - Residency Requirements (SB72)**, which would enable the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to establish residency requirements for any member of the command staff of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) with the rank of ‘captain’ or above. With so much attention and effort, nowadays, aimed at the idea of community-based policing as a necessary approach to combat the challenges of crime and violence facing Baltimore City, it is absolutely essential for those who are leading the charge against those said challenges to be in tune with the people and neighborhoods that are affected. A residency requirement for those at BPD with, or above, the rank of captain would go a long way towards the effort to combat the challenges posed by crime and violence.

This transition towards more community-based policing also speaks to the effort to reestablish trust between BPD and the community members they serve—many of the citizens that I represent in the 9th District are factored into this equation. There is a strong desire amongst many Baltimore City residents

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to see those who police their neighborhoods and streets make more meaningful connections and establish deeper relationship with the people that they serve. To put it simply, these residents of the City want police to feel and act as members of the community who are just as invested in the growth and improvement of the communities that they police as those who call these places home.

For the reasons stated above, I would urge a favorable vote on **SB 72**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Councilman John Bullock, PhD.
Baltimore City Council – District 9