



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



BEARNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor

MICHAEL S. HARRISON
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Senate Bill 140 - Office of Legislative Audits – Audits of the Baltimore Police Department

DATE: January 21, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 140.

Senate Bill 140 makes several changes to the existing requirement of the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) to conduct audits of the Baltimore Police Department. In particular, this bill allows the OLA to conduct multiple audits of the Baltimore Police Department at least once every 6 years; provides that the scope and objective of the audit shall be determined by the legislative auditor; and requires that Baltimore City Government make available to OLA all city employees, records, and information systems deemed necessary to conduct the audit of the Baltimore Police Department.

It is important to note that last year BPD supported Senate Bill 41 which initially created the requirement that OLA conduct period audits of the Department and that it is currently mandated by the City Charter to undergo both a financial and performance audit every two years. However, we do believe that any additional review of this nature will be beneficial to the operation of the Baltimore Police Department and increase overall transparency and accountability within the Department.

Therefore, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 140.