



**Testimony on House Bill 1640
to
House Judiciary Committee
on
Morgan State University – Police Force Powers – Authorization**

March 10, 2020

In recent years, more students attending Morgan State University (MSU) have taken up residency in the communities that surround the campus. The MSU Police Department's (MSUPD) current authority only allows for the discharge of police powers on property that is owned, operated and/or leased by the University. As a result, MSUPD is only able to provide police services and protection on campus and at off-campus residential facilities. The expanded jurisdiction would enable the MSUPD to assist in providing safety and security to those students residing off-campus as they traverse to and from campus.

As our students seek residences within the surrounding communities, the MSUPD would be able to respond and take action when quality of life issues arise within the community concerning our students. It is worth noting that Morgan students often create pop-up events, particularly during the spring and summer months. MSUPD would be better positioned to respond to these events, identify our students, and address matters swiftly and accordingly.

The expanded police jurisdiction would assist Morgan with its Morgan Mile initiatives, and provide increased services in the event the University acquires nearby property. The potential purchase of the Lake Clifton High School property would require Morgan students to traverse the space between campus and that property (approximately two miles from the main campus). MSUPD would be able to discharge police services in between those locations to provide a safe environment for Morgan faculty, staff and students as well as the surrounding communities.

It is for these abovementioned reasons that Morgan State University requests the Committee's support of House Bill 1640.