

Jeffrey A. Harrison

Date: February 2, 2021

Position: **Favorable**

Sponsor: Senator Carter

Bill Number: **SB 627**

Senate Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Bill Title: Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights
- Repeal and Procedures for Discipline

Dear Committee Chair Smith, Committee Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

I am a Marylander, and I strongly support SB 627.

The bill replaces LEOBR with statewide procedures that make accountability possible while also providing due process for law-enforcement officers. For consistency, fairness, and justice across Maryland, SB 627 fortunately preempts local laws and collective bargaining agreements that are inconsistent with the bill.

SB 627 is about racial justice and holding officers accountable for the violence, abuse, and trauma they inflict on the community, mostly Black and Brown residents. Because of LEOBR, friends who sought justice after being traumatized by police brutality and police corruption were unable to obtain that justice. And those same brutal and corrupt police officers are still employed by police departments in Maryland today. SB 627 reimagines the discipline process and provides the potential for justice and accountability.

I am glad that SB 627 is a strong and well-thought-out bill with clear provisions. I ask the Senate to pass the bill with its effective provisions as introduced. Please don't water the bill down with amendments that weaken the bill.

For those reasons, please support SB 627 and report it as Favorable from the committee.

Thank you.

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