



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 786 Baltimore City – Control of the Police Department of Baltimore City

DATE: February 11, 2021

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 786.

Senate Bill 786 has been requested by the administration of Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott. The bill establishes a process through which the Baltimore Police Department will become an agency and instrumentality of the City of Baltimore, instead of the State. To that end, it establishes that January 1, 2025 shall be the date in which the transfer occurs and provides that the Department shall be considered an agency and instrumentality of the State for all actions arising out of acts, omissions or events that have occurred prior to the date of transfer and an agency and instrumentality of Baltimore City after that date.

It also establishes an advisory board that shall study and report out on a range of potential issues associated with the transfer of control including:

- ✓ Ongoing implementation of the Consent Decree;
- ✓ Management of the Police Department;
- ✓ Transfer of personnel;
- ✓ Various models of local control;
- ✓ Financial impacts, including liability issues; and
- ✓ Details of a potential charter amendment addressing the transfer.

We look forward to future conversations regarding this topic and to participating on the Advisory Board on the Transfer of Control of the Police Department of Baltimore City. Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 786.