

Senate Bill 99

Hate Crimes – Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders

Sponsor: Senator Jack Bailey

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Detective Eric J. Perez

Maryland Fraternal Order of Police

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members the Committee, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 99 submitted by Senator Jack Bailey.

This bill is crucial in protecting all law enforcement officers and first responders against any hate crimes committed against an individual, group or government property that represents and/or is occupied/utilized by law enforcement officers and first responders. All too often in today's society, the narrative portrayed across the country, that it is common practice for the anti-police (and anti-government) groups to carry on and not be held accountable or held to the letter of the law whenever they burn, deface, destroy and vandalize government property, buildings and have on many occasions burnt our nation's flag. These individuals who I like to call anarchists need to be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law when these vile acts are committed. These groups who commit these acts also put the good citizens of our country in danger when they burn and loot in this radical and reckless manner.

On July 25, 2020 the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3 in Baltimore City (FOP3) was attacked and vandalized by a group of over (100) one hundred radical demonstrators. This group was very aggressive towards police officers who responded to this scene and took quite some time to back down and disperse. This large group of demonstrators spray painted hate crime statements and vulgarities all over the parking lot, the exterior of the building and windows and also burned our nation's flag that was flying high on the building. This was an attack of hate not only on the FOP3 Lodge building but also on the men and women of the Baltimore Police Department, both active and retired. (Illustrations listed below).

In conclusion, we hope our legislators ensure that law enforcement officers and first responders are afforded the same protections as every citizen while working under the color of the law. Once again thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee and have a good day.











