

SB0050 Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Intervene

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my support for SB0050 requiring any police officer that observes misconduct by one or more of their fellow officers to report such conduct for investigation and discipline. Currently, there is a code of silence for “members of the blue line” and it needs to come to an end. Having this failure result in potential jail time and/or fines provides the motivation for police officers to do the right thing. It is a shame that they need to be threatened with such a law in order to get them to do what is right.

Every day in our state there are civilians reporting such incidents, and they go largely unheard, uninvestigated, and unpunished. There are currently repeat offender officers on the many police forces within our state that feel they are above the law, simply because they can bully, harass, and threaten their co-workers into silence. One such egregious case was here in Baltimore City, where an officer attempted to report misconduct and was harassed out of a job. Even the leadership of the Department partook in the cover-up and mishandling of the Officer Crystal case, and we can no longer tolerate these things. Please allow this bill to pass through committee and be brought forth before the entire Senate and House to be passed into Law. It is BEYOND the time for this and will aid in preserving the “good apples” while addressing the rotten ones.

Thank you.

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