

SB0166 Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Report Misconduct

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my support of SB0166 as part of the MD Police Reform Act of 2021. Currently, there is a culture of silence that permeates Law Enforcement that allows misconduct to go unchecked. This “Blue Code of Silence” needs to cease to exist. Silence condones violence, and failure of Law Enforcement to uphold the law by reporting misconduct that they witness at the hands of a colleague should not be tolerated.

The Public is always accosted with the phrase “If you see something, say something.” Yet law enforcement officers cover law breaking for each other with a cloak of silence. I am in full support of an end being brought to this practice. Monetary fines will serve as a deterrent for this abhorrent conduct to continue. Keeping quiet about abuses of their fellow officers only serves to tarnish their own credibility and enforces a mistrust from the general public. No one should be above the law.

Please allow this to pass through to the full Senate and House for voting so it can become the law and part of sorely needed Police Reforms in our State.

Thank you.

Adiena C. Britt

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