



## Voices Maryland

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Testimony on: HB0120-- “ Investigations of Law Enforcement Officers  
(Anton’s Law)”**

**Organization: Voices Maryland**

**Person Submitting: Sarahia Benn, Legislative Executive**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 9, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing testimony today in support of HB0120. Voices Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts marginalized communities and veterans affairs. Police accountability legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently.

**Use of force & MPIA for Law Enforcement officers:** Since that day in May 2020 when George Floyd stated he couldn’t breath we in America and Maryland wide have seen an overwhelming push for police accountability, an awakening. In Maryland we have had years and years of victims, families and advocates such as myself and others cry for accountability and a standard of use of deadly force and Anton’s law is it. It will create a Maryland statewide guide for police use of deadly force while also requiring the release of information (MPIA) about investigations and complaints against officers for misconduct. This is what Marylanders demand to ensure the public trust. Marylanders know that not every police officer is engaging in misconduct however we also know that what is set on the books is not working to ensure our trust of which we pay and this is one law that will set our criminal justice system on the right course especially for the Black, Veteran, and Marginalized communities who are the most impacted from instances of

police misconduct and brutality such as Freddie Gray, Korryn Gaines, and Anton Black of which this legislation is named after.

**(Dedicated to Black History month)**

"When my brothers try to draw a circle to exclude me, I shall draw a larger circle to include them. Where they speak out for the privileges of a puny group, I shall shout for the rights of all mankind." Pauli Murray

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for HB0120.