



January 17, 2021

Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB227 – Courts - Improperly Summoning a Police Officer-
Civil Liability**

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 227 Improperly Summoning a Police Officer. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

Over the course of especially last year, there have been many issues on the forefront of our society; among them is increasingly excessive police interference with daily life. Police are called too often on people of color for non-emergency situations which can escalate rapidly.

Maryland's Muslim communities are comprised of very diverse ethnic and racial groups, and many individuals have also had their race or religion weaponized by others who seek to do them harm.

These unnecessary 911 calls not only waste government resources and divert police officers' attention from legitimately urgent disputes and crimes that warrant their intervention, but they also increase the risk of a hostile situation which can endanger innocent lives.

We support this bill because it sets the tone for accountability, and we believe it will help discourage this behavior in the future. Therefore, we respectfully urge your vote in favor of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Huzzaifa Muhammad
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Council on American-Islamic Relations
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