



Nick J. Mosby, *President*  
Baltimore City Council

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February 15, 2021

To: **Members of the House Judiciary Committee**  
Re: **HB 1049 – Police Qualified Immunity and Accountability Act**  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Clippinger and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my **support** for House Bill 1049, the Police Qualified Immunity and Accountability Act. This bill addresses the financial impact cities like Baltimore suffer when law enforcement officers' abuse of power results in criminal conduct. Under the current state of the law and contracts with the local police unions, an officer can be convicted of killing or robbing someone but still retire with their full pension benefits.

The recent Gun Trace Task Force cases present a powerful example of how badly we need new legislation in this area. Despite those officers' wanton criminal conspiracy, the tax payers of Baltimore City are still required to fund the retirement for those officers and their families. We are held hostage by the state law in this way regardless of the criminal behavior perpetrated or the home residency of the officer. By contrast, the state law explicitly allows for the possibility of other non-law enforcement employees to forfeit pension benefits if they are convicted of a felony. This imbalance and inequity cannot continue. We must change the law to allow for some personal responsibility for this criminal conduct – and it must be applied equally across our government offices.

The Baltimore City Council cannot change this situation on our own and we are grateful for General Assembly partners like Del. Wilkins. We will continue working in partnership with her and our City colleagues to enact more balanced policies which we can apply equitably across our government workforce. I am grateful for this opportunity to urge this Committee to vote **favorable** on HB 1049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick J. Mosby", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nick J. Mosby  
President, Baltimore City Council