



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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SB 914

April 1, 2021

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 914 –Sheriff of Baltimore City

POSITION: Support

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 914.

SB 914 authorizes collective bargaining for full-time sworn law enforcement officers who are deputy sheriffs at the rank of lieutenant or below and court security officers in Baltimore City. It requires the Sheriff and the Secretary to recognize an exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining and authorizes the Sheriff, the Secretary, and the exclusive representative to select the number of individuals designated to represent the respective parties.

In 2020, the movement for collective bargaining rights for the Sheriff's Office received the support of the Baltimore City Council and the conditional support of the prior Administration. Concerns over the process for collective bargaining have been worked out in the interim.

The bill is now consistent with the collective bargaining processes and procedures that currently exist in Baltimore City. The right to organize and negotiate must be conducted in accordance with the Baltimore City Code, Article 12. The Office of the Labor Commissioner (OLC) would be required to negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding.

The BCA under Mayor Scott supports the authorization of collective bargaining for the Sheriff's Office and respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 914.