



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Michael Harrison, Police Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department

RE: Senate Bill 652 Criminal Law – Murder of a Police Officer (Officer Keona Holley Public Safety Act)

DATE: March 15, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 652.

Senate Bill 652 provides for enhanced penalties for knowingly committing, attempting to commit or conspiring to commit murder in the first degree and murder in the second degree of a police officer.

This bill is a common-sense approach to establishing the certainty of punishment for those who would kill, attempt to kill or conspire to kill our police officers simply because they wear a uniform.

Officer Keona Holley was brave. She was selfless. She was committed to her community. She was the very embodiment of community policing. While every homicide is painful and a tragic loss to the community, I would assert that the murder of an officer while on duty, in uniform and in their police vehicle protecting their post, is an attack on society itself.

We ask much of our officers and their loved ones. Our officers take on an extraordinary risk to their own lives to apprehend those individuals who would do harm to our residents and visitors. Our officers' sacrifice holidays, birthdays and weekends with their own families in order to protect the families of others. Because of the risks that they take and sacrifices they make, we should ensure that they are protected and those that would do them harm are held accountable to the fullest extent possible. This bill provides that support and sends the unmistakable message that we will not tolerate the intentional, heinous killing of a police officer.

Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 652.