



# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor

**Michael S. Harrison**  
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Senate Bill 586 Criminal Procedure – Pretrial Release of Defendant – Notice

DATE: February 23, 2022

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 586.

Senate Bill 586 requires the Court and the Office of the State’s Attorney to notify the arresting law enforcement agency if a suspect charged with murder in the first or second degree, attempted murder in the first or second degree, robbery with a dangerous weapon, or armed carjacking, has been released prior to trial.

This bill will enhance vital communication between the Court and the Office of the State’s Attorney and enable law enforcement to better protect victims, witnesses and residents when alleged violent offenders reenter communities. This notification will also prompt law enforcement to monitor open sources to learn of any planned retaliation so they can develop a deployment plan designed to safeguard the offender and any innocent bystanders who may be at risk.

We do understand that an amendment may be forthcoming that requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (MD PSCS) to provide the notifications contemplated in this bill. In fact, we believe that MD PSCS has agreed to start sending the information as soon as we are able to develop an appropriate protocol. We certainly support this change to the bill and pledge to work closely with our public safety partner to operationalize the notification swiftly and efficiently.

Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 586.