



February 24, 2022

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for HB 1184

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committees:

The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg support House Bill 1184, Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees - Municipal Corporations, and respectfully request that you grant this bill a favorable report.

This bill authorizes each municipal corporation in the State to have a police accountability board to receive complaints of police misconduct filed by members of the public; and authorizes each municipal corporation to establish an administrative charging committee to serve law enforcement agencies in the municipal corporations.

The City believes that it is important for municipalities to have the option to establish their own Accountability Board and Charging Committee for several reasons. First, municipal Boards and Committees will be more familiar with that Police Department's regulations and policies, versus having to be versed in policies from many agencies. Second, the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures legislation currently requires Accountability Boards to work only with County officials and to make recommendations to County officials. For a meaningful review of municipal Departments, specific review of municipal trends and practices and recommendations should be made to municipal officials. Finally, at least in Montgomery County, there is a backlog of disciplinary cases, so requiring Gaithersburg Police Department cases to be processed through a County Board and Committee could lead to substantial delays in disciplinary actions.

For the reasons stated herein, we respectfully request a favorable vote on House Bill 1184.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman
Mayor

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov • gaitersburgmd.gov

MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Jim McNulty
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley