



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: The Honorable Members of the Appropriation Committee

FROM: Erin C. Murphy, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Public Safety- Officer & Community Wellness Training Grant Fund

DATE: March 6, 2023

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** House Bill 0751.

House Bill 0751 establishes the Officer & Community Wellness Training Fund. This fund would provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety Training and Critical Incident Stress Management peer support training.

It is imperative that law enforcement officers feel supported during times that can be very taxing mentally and emotionally. Research has shown that when an individual experiences a traumatic incident, the structures of the brain involved in the ability to translate the experience into communicable language decreases in activity.

The Baltimore City Police Department supports this Bill as it provides more resources towards addressing the mental health of first responders. For these reasons, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 0751.