



# Prince George's County Municipal Association

*An Association of 27 Municipalities*



February 21, 2023

**SB409 - Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees – Municipal Corporations**  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Prince George's County Municipal Association writes to support SB409 - Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees - Municipal Corporations. If enacted, this legislation would empower municipalities to create their own police accountability boards and administrative charging committees rather than having to rely on county boards to ensure accountability for our municipal police forces.

Allowing municipalities to establish their own police accountability boards and administrative charging committees would provide several benefits to ensuring the reliability of police accountability processes and protecting the rights of complainants. It would reduce the burden on county boards and ensure that both county and municipal boards would be better able to expeditiously review complaints. It would also ensure greater local engagement with municipal populations.

Since municipal police agencies are typically independent from county agencies, allowing a county board to have oversight over a municipal body is an awkward arrangement rarely seen anywhere else in the state. Permitting municipalities to create their own boards would allow each municipality to create an accountability process that reflects the community and its values, while shortening response times and allowing municipalities to share the costs.

We believe SB489 will allow for greater and more effective police accountability in municipalities across the state, and respectfully request a favorable report.

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