



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0764

March 14, 2023

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Mayor Brandon M. Scott, City of Baltimore

RE: Senate Bill 764 – Baltimore City – Assault of Special Enforcement Officers – Penalties

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that my Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 764.

SB 764 seeks to expand assault protections afforded to law enforcement, parole officers, firefighters, and other first responders to Baltimore City special enforcement officers, parking enforcement officers, and traffic enforcement officers. These enforcement officers are City employees who are empowered by the police commissioner to perform duties typically carried out by Baltimore City Police Department. Being unarmed, these enforcement officers are particularly vulnerable when conflicts arise.

The Baltimore City municipal workforce is comprised largely of people of color. This fact holds true for special officers, parking officers, and traffic officers, the majority of whom are women of color. The assault of these critical workers poses a substantial challenge to recruitment and staff morale, which in turn hurts the level of service the City can provide to residents. Parking officers are particularly prone to confrontation and conflict due to the controversial nature of their work—no one is happy to take a parking ticket. Parking officers are required to disengage when disputes arise, but this does not ensure the safety of officers.

Ensuring the safety of our employees is paramount to staff morale and recruitment efforts. Extending protections to these critical enforcement officers will allow Baltimore City to provide residents with higher quality parking and traffic enforcement.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 764.