

February 28, 2023

SB758- Baltimore City - Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner

Favorable with Amendments

My name is Charlene Rock-Foster, a resident of Baltimore City, and I support SB758.

I had the opportunity to attend the hearing for Local Control of the Baltimore City Police Department (BCPD) on February 21st. I was astonished and disappointed in learning that despite over 80% of residents- me included- voting for local control of BCPD, there wasn't legislative powers in place for oversight. Given this fight for local control has been years in the making, it should had happened immediately but currently, there is no governing oversight. Additionally, the powers that be are planning to further delay implementation of local control of BCPD until 2024 – this is unacceptable. My recommendation is to ***immediately*** give the City Council and the Mayor legislative oversight and full authority over Baltimore City Police department, not wait until June 1st to make this happen.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB0758. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.