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**TESTIMONY ON SB758 -FAVORABLE**

**Baltimore City - Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Jordan Harburger

I attended an information session convened by the Baltimore City Council last week to learn about the progress toward returning local control of the Police Department to local control. I listened closely to all the speakers and learned that there is every good reason that the Maryland General Assembly should, without delay, pass SB758 and its companion bill filed in the House of Delegates. The bills, once passed by both houses without amendment, should be signed by the Governor and no later than June 1, 2023 legislative control and administrative governing control over the Baltimore Police Department should transfer from the State of Maryland to the City of Baltimore. Any and all attempts to delay further this will of the people must be resisted. After 160 years the elected officials of the City of Baltimore must have the authority over and be responsible for the governance of their Police Department as is the case in all other jurisdictions in Maryland. There is no credible justification for delaying this long overdue and necessary correction.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB758.**