



Baltimore City Sheriff's Office



Samuel Cogen, Sheriff

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Written Testimony House Bill 632

To: Chairman Delegate Luke Clippinger and Committee,

House Bill 632 authorizes three items the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office requires in order to take on a greater role in serving Baltimore City:

Adds two command level supervisors needed to manage the Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office already has two Assistant Sheriff (Special) positions in place and this legislation formally codifies these positions. Currently the Assistant Sheriff's manage Human Resources, Procurement, Purchasing, Fleet, Budget, Intergovernmental Relations, Labor Relations, EEOC and other critical functions required to maintain a modern law enforcement agency.

Creates the ability to appoint social workers to connect tenant facing eviction with services

Social workers will function to connect families scheduled for eviction with available government and private services. Social workers will be available to deputies conducting evictions to connect families with emergency placement and rehousing services. Connection to these programs is incredibly important to humanize the eviction process by mitigating the harm an eviction does to our citizens who find themselves unable to pay rent. This type of program does not currently exist and adding social workers is a core goal of the new sheriff's administration.

Authorize the appointment of additional personnel if funding is available

Currently the Sheriff is capped at a maximum amount of staff that may be appointed. The Sheriff's Office wants to take on additional duties and be a part of the public safety solution in Baltimore City. The Sheriff would have to request a change in the State Law to add additional Deputy Sheriff's. This legislation removes the maximum cap on personnel and authorizes the Sheriff to appoint additional staff to take on additional duties only if additional City or Grant funds are made available to fund the position(s).

Fiscal Considerations

The language reads the Sheriff "may" appoint and is only authorized to appoint if the budget or grants fund the additional position. The two Assistant Sheriff Positions are already in place as Assistant Sheriff (special).