

March 6th, 2023

HB0853- 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 HB0853.

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 voting for local control of BCPD, there wasn't legislative power in place for oversight. Given this fight for local control has been years in the making, it should had happened immediately. 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 with amendments report on HB0853. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.