

Date of Hearing: 3/1/2023

Andrew J. Miller

16 Emerald Ridge Court, Baltimore, MD 21209

**TESTIMONY ON SB758/HB853**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

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

**FROM:** Andrew J. Miller

**My name is Andrew Miller. I am a resident of District 11. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB758, Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner.**

I believe that the well-being of Baltimore and its citizens is of critical importance to Baltimore County and to the State of Maryland as a whole. Last February I submitted testimony on behalf of the Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act and was glad to see it passed into law. Recently I submitted testimony to this committee in support of the Youth Equity and Safety Act. I am equally concerned about the bill before this committee in today's hearing.

As a former resident of Baltimore City for many years and currently a long-time resident of Baltimore County I believe that local control should be a bedrock principal and there is no justifiable reason to deny that right to Baltimore City. Advocates have been working to give local control back to Baltimore City for more than 10 years; in 2021 the General Assembly passed legislation allowing this once Baltimore City passed an amendment to the City Charter; and in November of 2022, 82% of voters in Baltimore City voted in favor of that amendment. However the Baltimore City Council still does not have the power to legislate reforms to the Baltimore Police Department. Police accountability should be in the hands of local government and it is unfair that Baltimore City residents still have no way to affect changes in related policies at the local level. One last piece of state legislation, SB758, is needed to change the City Charter and to realize the goal of enabling local control.

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