

MAYOR
Travis Marion

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Calvin A. Bonenberger Jr.

RISINGSUNMD.ORG

February 17, 2023

Honorable Chairman and Committee members
Of House Judiciary Committee
90 State Circle
Annapolis MD 21401

Honorable Chairperson & Committee Members:

As you are aware our current state law only allows for County Executive appointed Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees. This ignores small municipalities like Rising Sun. As you are aware a municipality is incorporated by the residents of the area to operate within a prescribed geographic area for the purpose of providing public services. The state grants the municipality the powers and authority to have control over its affairs. The current write of this bill eliminates the citizens of a municipalities voice and creates an unprecedented and inappropriate county oversight of our municipal agency. The process invites political manipulation and control. It should also be noted that the process is flawed with the lack of benchmarks and timelines that will result in significant delays in justice both for our officers who may be cleared and our residents who may have significant concerns.

The current legislation could provide for conflicts during a concurrent criminal investigation. I am requesting your support in giving a voice to municipalities and their police agencies by allowing municipalities to put fourth qualified individuals to serve on these boards.

Respectfully,

Travis Marion, Mayor
Town of Rising Sun Maryland

Francis (Chip) Peterson, Police Chief
Town of Rising Sun Maryland