



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
House Bill 518 – Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging
Committees – Municipal Corporations
Support

The Rockville Mayor and Council thank Chairman Clippinger and the members of the House Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 518.

The Rockville Mayor and Council in partnership with the Maryland Municipal League support this legislation, which aligns with our priority for municipalities to be authorized to create their own Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee. As you consider the merits of this legislation, we urge the Committee to provide HB 518 with a favorable report and forward it to the House floor for a vote.

A component of the police reform suite of legislation that passed in 2021 requires each County to have a Police accountability Board and establish an Administrative Charging Committee. The law does not, however, offer municipalities the option to establish their own Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee, despite Rockville and other municipal police departments having autonomy from our county counterparts. Under current law, County boards respond to and address municipal policing issues, which is inefficient and problematic.

Rockville and other municipal police agencies should have the ability to establish their own Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committee to handle police misconduct complaints from the public and for its residents to be represented on the boards. Municipal police agencies and their residents are most familiar with the issues in their respective communities and are best positioned to work together to address matters that need attention.

In closing, we believe that HB 518 is good public policy that would facilitate increased accountability and collaboration between municipal law enforcement agencies and the community. We ask for your support for this important legislation.