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BILL NO.: **SB 1101**

TITLE: Scholarships and Police Officer Recruitment

SPONSOR: Chairman Smith

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 27, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1101 – Scholarships and Police Officer Recruitment, which will require law enforcement agencies in the State of Maryland to recruit for police officer applicants at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Maryland.

SB 1101 will contribute to Baltimore County’s efforts to contact qualified candidates and hire quality applicants for law enforcement job opportunities. The Baltimore County Police Department currently attends recruiting events at Historically Black Colleges and Universities both in Maryland and outside the State. It is priority for the County and its Police Department to expand the applicant pool and the interest in law enforcement careers. Furthermore, it is crucial that the State of Maryland, local jurisdictions, and Police Departments collaborate to reach out to communities that have historically been the target of Police bias and are underrepresented in law enforcement roles in every capacity. Both the recruiting presence of the Police Department in these communities and the increased participation in the Police workforce by members of these communities contribute to mending longstanding divisions and bettering the Police workforce.

Baltimore County has led on attracting a more diverse for law enforcement roles through the Community Policing Partnership, a joint-initiative that is building new pathways for public safety-focused careers in Baltimore County and ensuring that the next generation of law enforcement reflects the diversity of our communities. In order to modernize current law enforcement institutions and attract a diverse pool of applicants, initiatives such as SB 1101 and the Baltimore County Community Policing Partnership must be pursued.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 1101 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.