



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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**SB0621**

February 21, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 621 – County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 621.

This bill authorizes local governing bodies for counties, including Baltimore City, by local law, to authorize its police accountability board to exercise investigatory and subpoena powers. Police accountability boards may conduct an investigation of a complaint of police misconduct concurrently with a law enforcement agency investigating the complaint.

Providing subpoena power to the Police Accountability Board will make it easier and faster for the Baltimore Police Department to provide documents to the Police Accountability Board because the requests would no longer fall within the Public Information Act, which requires extensive document review before production. Having subpoena power also sends a strong message that the government welcomes transparency. Additionally, allowing the Police Accountability Board to conduct concurrent investigations may produce more robust analysis and information gathering than the current process without that authority.

This legislation is enabling in nature, which allows for each jurisdiction to determine what level of additional power it would like to provide to its respective Police Accountability Board.

For those reasons, the Baltimore City Administration **supports** the passage of SB 621.