

Chair of the Judiciary Committee  
Delegate Luke Clippinger

RE: House Bill 1034 – Baltimore City Sheriff – Staffing  
Hearing Date of 2/27/2024 @1:00 PM

**IN OPPOSITION**

My name is David McClure and I am the past Assistant Sheriff of Baltimore City, past President and Business Agent of ATU Local 1300, and the current host of Lunch with Labor - WOLB.

I am providing written testimony **against HB 1034** by Delegate Smith on behalf of Sheriff Samuel Cogen of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office.

This bill, if passed, would increase the Assistant Sheriff position from one to three by adding two additional positions.

This bill would also allow the position of Social Workers.

Finally, the bill would allow, ANY ADDITIONAL SWORN OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL THAT ARE FUNDED BY THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING BUDGET OR BY ANY OTHER FUNDING SOURCE.

I oppose this bill for the below reasons. First of all, there is no need for a small secondary law enforcement agency such as the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office to have in its command structure three assistant sheriff positions. To clarify the meaning of secondary law enforcement agency, it is such because the Baltimore Police Department mostly

provides police services to the population of Baltimore City. This amounts to answering calls for service, handling vehicle crashes, investigating homicides, burglaries and robberies and other crimes. Whereas, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office has law enforcement authority such as making arrests and writing tickets, this is not their norm or better yet, mandated responsibility.

The primary duties of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office are to serve all civil paperwork issued by the circuit court. This includes subpoenas, levies, and court orders to include domestic court orders. Also the Office has the responsibility for carrying out evictions and posting failure to pay rent notices. There is also the responsibility of picking up prisoners from various jurisdictions and bringing them to the courthouse. Most importantly, its mission centers on providing judicial enforcement and physical security for the Baltimore City Circuit Court buildings.

Additionally, this top heavy command structure with three assistant sheriffs is out of line with that of other similar or like sheriff offices in the Maryland jurisdiction that function as secondary law enforcement agencies. These agencies are Baltimore County Sheriff's Office, Howard County Sheriff's Office and Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office.

In fact, this command staff structure would be larger than that of the Harford County Sheriff's Office that is the primary law enforcement agency in Harford County, MD., with over 680 sworn and civilian personnel.

My second point of opposition is that of the staffing of social workers for a social services outreach division as posted on the Baltimore City Sheriff's website. This is a duplication of effort. There are various eviction prevention resources available to those in need offered by both the City of Baltimore and State of Maryland. This in my view is a salary expenditure that cannot be justified when other means exist to help those in need of eviction prevention/help services. Plus, the bill does not cap the positions.

My third and final point of opposing this bill pertains to additional sworn or civilian personnel. If this is approved it would allow for positions to be created without a justification through the personnel process that governs the creation and classification of positions by the City of Baltimore for city positions and the State of Maryland for state positions. This is like a blank check that ultimately leads to the paying authority to have to fund positions that are created just because the Sheriff can do it without oversight.

In conclusion, I am opposed to this bill for the aforementioned reasons. It is fiscally irresponsible and not in the best interest of tax-payer money.

Respectfully,



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