

TO: Chair of the Judiciary Committee  
Delegate Luke Clippinger

RE: House Bill 1034, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office-Staffing  
Hearing Date-2/27/2024, 1:00 p.m.

**IN OPPOSITION**

I am Sabrina Tapp-Harper, Secretary of Lodge #22-Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, one of the exclusive bargaining representatives certified by the Baltimore City Labor Commissioner to bargain wages for the Deputy Sheriffs in Baltimore City. I am also a retired Major from the Baltimore City Police Department (26.5 years of service), and former Assistant Sheriff and I was the highest-ranking woman (sworn/certified) appointed in the history of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, serving that office for nine years.

I am providing written testimony against HB 1034, introduced by chair of the city delegation, Delegate Stephanie Smith, in the current legislative session, on behalf of Baltimore City Sheriff Samuel Cogen of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office.

The Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #22 (FOP 22) is tremendously concerned about the introduction of HB 1034, as it is viewed as both Anti-Union and Anti-Collective Bargaining. In short, this legislation seeks to deprive union members of the right to collectively bargain for wages. It would permit Sheriff Cogen to establish **any additional** positions in his office **at any salary**, making Sheriff Cogen the only Sheriff in Maryland who could establish his own positions using taxpayer dollars, and making FOP 22 the only bargaining unit in Baltimore City that cannot bargain wages.

Currently, the Department of Budget and Management, not the City Council or the Sheriff, sets the salary for deputy sheriffs.

President Shauna Carroll, president of FOP Lodge #22 stated the following:

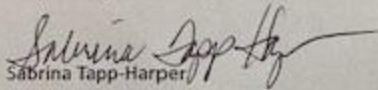
"We are more than disappointed that Sheriff Cogen will not support a simple fix that would permit FOP 22 to bargain wages with the Sheriff and the City of Baltimore. Instead, the Sheriff insists on claiming he has sole authority to establish positions and wages within his office. HB 1034 is an assault on the rank and file of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office by Sheriff Cogen who apparently believes he is unaccountable to the citizens of Baltimore City who hand him taxpayer dollars. Right now, the city is writing a blank check to Sheriff Sam Cogen, who continues to claim unfettered authority to spend the money as he, not the taxpayers, see fit. FOP 22, along

with its brothers and sisters who bargain collectively with the City of Baltimore, view HB 1034 as an attack on collective bargaining rights."

There were repeated assurances by the City of Baltimore and the Sheriff that this would be settled, yet this has not happened. This bill proposes to increase the Assistant Sheriff positions from one to three, while the Sheriff has already placed two civilians in those additional positions. HB 1034 would also allow Social Workers and any additional sworn or civilian personnel to be hired, that are funded by the Sheriff's operating budget or by any other funding source.

FOP Lodge #22 is opposed to HB 1034, for all the reasons mentioned, which ultimately deprive union members of the right to collectively bargain for wages.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Sabrina Tapp-Harper

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