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February 24, 2025

The Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Letter of Support for House Bill 537** – Police Discipline – Order to Show Cause

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

As Cecil County Executive and a retired law enforcement officer, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 537, which seeks to address possible violations of a law enforcement officer's due process rights regarding disciplinary proceedings. We should hold our police accountable and ensure they adhere to the high standards their position demands. However, accountability works both ways and discipline proceedings, like the criminal justice system, works best when due process is followed, allowing our adversarial procedure to follow the facts wherever they lead and get to the unvarnished truth. Protection of due process rights are key to this endeavor and, like our justice system, when rights are violated, the aggrieved parties should have an avenue of relief from the courts.

The integrity of police accountability and discipline depends on fundamental fairness for all involved, which serves the interests of the officer, complainant, the employing law enforcement agency, local government, and the public. When due process is followed, the outcome can seldom be in question, and the ability to seek judicial relief through a show cause order can only solidify internal and external confidence in the process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to look **favorably** on HB 537.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Streight".

Adam Streight  
County Executive