

Friday, February 21, 2025



## Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Campaign for Justice, Safety, and Jobs (CJSJ), which is composed by over 30 organizations from Baltimore to address and provide policy, economic and justice solutions. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying in **support of HB0139 - Misconduct Investigation Deadline.**

The Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) must review completed investigations before the mandated deadline. To ensure the ACC has sufficient time to review completed investigations, this bill would require the police Internal Affairs Department to complete their investigations within 9 months. CJSJ suggests an amendment permitting the cap of 30 days for ACC review be lifted, allowing a thorough review.

Giving the ACC sufficient time to review completed investigations is a wise change to the law for all parties. Hasty reviews completed more to a deadline than to the purpose for which the ACC is convened can only serve to create errors, misapprehensions, and miscarriages of justice easier. A longer duration for an Internal Affairs Department investigation can drag out the impact of an investigation and the subsequent review on the life of the officer or officers being investigated and their colleagues. It therefore behooves all involved to complete reviews in a timely fashion, including completed ACC reviews, so that our law enforcement officers can refocus their attention on protecting and serving their communities.

Furthermore, if an officer or officers ought to be charged or if disciplinary actions ought to be undertaken, such findings can be shared swiftly and problems rooted out more

efficiently. Striking a better balance between speed and completion will ensure reform achieves its aim: improving policing for residents.

It is for this reason that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of Misconduct Investigation Deadline HB0139**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Katherine Blaha  
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