



Morningside Police Department

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Daniel J. Franklin
Chief of Police

TO: The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Daniel J. Franklin #0255
Chief of Police
Morningside Police Department

DATE: February 21, 2025

RE: HB 0308 Criminal Law – Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition – Retired Law Enforcement Officials

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Greetings Chairman Clippinger and the members of the House Judiciary Committee.

I am writing to state my position regarding the proposed legislation in front of the House Judiciary Committee titled HB 0308 Criminal Law – Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition – Retired Law Enforcement Officials. This bill establishes an exception to the prohibition against entering or trespassing on real property while wearing and carrying a firearm for retired law enforcement officials who have retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State of Maryland (or another state), or a local unit in the State of Maryland (or another state under certain circumstances).

The proposed bill is a necessary and reasonable measure that provides an exemption for retired law enforcement officials, allowing them to lawfully wear and carry a concealed firearm while respecting property rights. Law enforcement professionals dedicate their careers to public safety, often facing dangerous and high-risk situations. In retirement, these individuals are required to demonstrate their proficiency and competence with their handguns by firing a yearly qualification course certified by the agency from which they retired. By allowing retired officers in good standing, who meet these strict annual training requirements to wear and carry concealed firearms, this bill allows properly trained retirees to commit to their continued role in ensuring safety.

Additionally, this legislation aligns with existing provisions that allow active law enforcement officers, military personnel, and correctional officers to carry firearms under certain conditions. Retired law enforcement officers can remain targets of violence due to the nature of their careers. Recognizing that there is still a chance of them being targeted due to their prior service and permitting them to carry firearms can provide an added layer of personal protection while also offering the potential of professional intervention in emergencies that may result in serious bodily harm or death to them or others. The bill does not override private property rights; property owners still retain control over whether firearms are permitted on their premises. By balancing public safety, responsible firearm possession, and individual property rights, HB 308 is a well-reasoned approach that enhances community security while respecting the rights of all Maryland residents. For the above-mentioned reasons, I would respectfully request the consideration of my written testimony **SUPPORTING** HB 0238.

Thank you for your time and consideration.