

February 10, 2025

Maryland General Assembly

RE: Why I support HB 635 – Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence

It should be clear to anyone concerned, that policing in the United States is currently undergoing a crisis of credibility.

A sizable portion of the public is losing confidence in status quo policing. Among specific groups such as Black males to which I belong, this mistrust has long existed. If confidence and credibility are to be restored, transparency is necessary. This is why I support HB 635.

While I have no illusions of this bill being a magic pill that will conduct the radical change needed for policing in Maryland, I do believe that it can contribute to the long illusive accountability for police behavior that has all too often served as judge, jury and even executioner.

It is foreseeable for the Fraternal Order of Police to play the same cards of denial and defending the indefensible. But the days of telling the public not to believe their own eyes have passed. In the short range, the people want accountability for police misconduct. In the long range, the people who want policing radically transformed into a community controlled model in which the power is shifted to the community.

HB 635 can contribute to the above noted short range objective. A truly representative House will support this bill.

Sincerely,

Professor Gus Griffin

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