



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 0985 Police Discipline – Administrative Charging Committees – Additional Charging Committee

POSITION: OPPOSED

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 0985 Police Discipline – Administrative Charging Committees – Additional Charging Committee sponsored by Delegate Young. As the Chief of Police for the Town of Morningside, I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the passage of HB 0985. If it were to pass, HB 0985 would allow counties to establish a second Administrative Charging Committee when there is no current evidence that this is necessary. It would seek to provide a solution without an identified problem. That by itself lends the appearance of promoting wasting funds by local governments.

Additionally, adding a second ACC would promote inconsistency and unfairness to the officers appearing in front of the committee. There could be two distinctly different paths of discipline for an identical issue if it is heard by two separate committees. That opens the local jurisdictions up to lawsuits due to unequal treatments.

Overall, while the appearance is to aid local government by allowing a second ACC to be established, in practice it would be a hinderance and open up Pandora's Box in civil liability.

For the reasons previously stated, I take the position of **STRONGLY OPPOSING** HB 0635.

Thank you for your time and consideration.