

Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

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TO: The Honorable Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq., Assistant Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

RE: House Bill 1056 – General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Purple Lights Night

DATE: March 17, 2026

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1056.

HB 1056, if enacted, would require the Governor to annually proclaim October 1 as Purple Lights Night to honor the individuals in the State who are victims or survivors of domestic violence and express support for the elimination of domestic violence in the State of Maryland.

In Baltimore City, the BCSO plays an important role in the domestic violence judicial process, as we serve the interim and temporary protective orders that are issued by the District Court of Maryland. As the committee knows, protective orders are the judicial process wherein victims of acts of abuse perpetrated by an individual who has a familial or domestic relationship can seek protection and relief from a Maryland judge. These interim and temporary protective orders are the important first step in the process to protect a domestic violence victim, and also often provides the notice to a final hearing where, after hearing both sides from the Petitioner and the Respondent, a judge may find the need to issue a final protective order if she determines the Petitioner is, indeed, a victim of an act or acts of abuse.

Victims and survivors of domestic violence are individuals who are directly impacted by the work of the BCSO. HB 1056 takes an important step to honor the individuals who are victims and survivors of domestic violence, to raise the profile and awareness of and express the need to eliminate the scourge of domestic violence from our State with an officially recognized commemorative night every October 1st.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCSO respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1056.