

Dear **Members of the Judiciary Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of HB 155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

I assume that law enforcement officers who serve our communities will openly identify themselves as such when doing their jobs. Law enforcement agencies have policies requiring officers to wear uniforms or other identifying markers in most circumstances, and we even have a law - Criminal Procedure Article 2-109 - which requires a police officer to identify him or herself by name, agency, and badge number when approaching a citizen for a traffic stop or other investigation.

Throughout 2025, we saw copious news coverage of federal law enforcement actions conducted by officers wearing street clothes and balaclavas. The fact that incidents of police impersonation have been on the rise in Maryland and nationally is not a coincidence: *when it becomes impossible to determine who is a legitimate law enforcement officer, criminals can more plausibly claim to be police by simply putting on a mask, no fake uniform or badge required.* Even the FBI has recognized the danger, circulating a bulletin to law enforcement agencies in October 2025 that warned criminals were taking advantage of routine mask-wearing by law enforcement to disguise themselves as ICE agents.¹ This confusion also makes routine law enforcement operations more dangerous. Initial contact between officer and civilian is often the most uncertain and dangerous moment in a law enforcement encounter, and ensuring that everyone is on the same page about what is happening can help prevent rash and dangerous decisions.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB 155, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ Cameron, Dell & Haskins, Caroline, "FBI warns of criminals posing as ICE, urges agents to ID themselves." WIRED Magazine, Nov. 4, 2025. <https://www.wired.com/story/fbi-warns-of-criminals-posing-as-ice-urges-agents-to-id-themselves/>