

CALVIN BALL
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DATE: August 26, 2020
FROM: Lisa Myers, Chief of Police *APM*
TO: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer to MSP Laboratory

Working collaboratively with the Howard County Health Department, the HCPD was able to acquire a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer, valued at \$163,000, for use by our HCPD chemist who was stationed within the Maryland State Police (MSP) Forensic Science Lab. This specialized forensic equipment is used to detect the presence and identity of substances such as illegal drugs.

In June of 2020, the warranty for the Gas Chromatograph /Mass Spectrometer was expiring and the HCPD no longer had a chemist assigned to the MSP Lab. The Maryland State Police (MSP) agreed to the sale, for nominal consideration, of the equipment and to assume the annual cost of maintenance (\$14,500) along with financial responsibility for the related consumable supplies.

MSP has agreed to keep the equipment in-service in their lab and available for processing Howard County cases. Retaining the equipment at the MSP Lab ensures local processing and keeps the equipment available should the HCPD be able to re-instate a chemist at some point.

Therefore, I ask the Council to approve the transfer of the Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer to the Maryland State Police Lab, so the equipment will remain available for processing Howard County cases.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

