

CALVIN BALL
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DATE: August 25, 2021

FROM: Lisa D. Myers *ADM*
Chief of Police

TO: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Testimony Supporting Supplementary Budget & Appropriation Ordinance
Number 1 – Fiscal Year 2022: Body Worn Cameras

As Chief of Police for Howard County, I strongly support SAO Number 1, which will transfer \$476,969 from the Contingency Reserve of the General Fund, to the Department of Police as well as the Office of the State's Attorney and the Sherriff's Office to allow the implementation of Body Worn Cameras.

This funding is essential to advance this project. As I have stated publicly, Police accountability is a fundamental tenet of our agency and these cameras demonstrate that commitment. The cameras are vital to continuing the outstanding relationships, trust and transparency our police department has long-established with our community.

The cameras are mandated by new State law and are also a well-established practice promoting officer and community safety. The HCPD has been researching Body Worn Cameras for over six years and conducted a pilot program in the summer of 2017 that concluded in the Fall of 2018. This funding will allow us to overcome the last of the three major barriers identified to institute the program (lack of staffing, space and budgetary funding).

The release of these funds will allow us to issue cameras covering 300 uniformed officers that have direct and regular contact with the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

