

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** patf.hoco@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 8:57 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Gibson, Richard; Harris, Marcus; Campbell, Roberta; Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** 'Jim Gormley'; 'Hiruy Hadgu'; 'Jacqueline Akinpelu'; 'Faye Page'; 'Ted Stewart'; 'bill cozzo'  
**Subject:** Howard County Body-Worn Camera Program

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To: The County Executive, County Council members, The County Sherriff, The Chief of Police and The State’s Attorney for Howard County  
From: The Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (“PATF-HC”)

As you know, our Police Accountability Task Force for Howard County has been advocating, together with our coalition partners representing thousands of County residents, for the immediate and full implementation of a body-worn camera (BWC) program for HoCo law enforcement personnel.

On August 19, PATF-HC commenced a "Two Days of Action" campaign, an email campaign aimed at asking county residents to email County Leadership to demand a full implementation of the Body Camera Program.

On August 23, the County Executive announced that he will allocate \$1.6 million from the American Rescue Plan, after the County Council votes to take the \$476k out of contingency. This would have the effect of fully funding the BWC Program from October 5 2021 (the day after the County Council vote) to July 31, 2022 (end of FY22). Dr. Ball expressed his commitment, pending County Council approval, to fully implement the BWC Program for Howard County’s law enforcement in Fiscal Year 2022.

We are gratified by this news and want to thank the County Executive for his announcement. We would also like to express our gratitude for the continuing expressions of support for the BWC Program that we have received from many of you in County leadership.

Our collective work is of course not over yet. Following these positive developments, we would now urge:

- (i) that all parties work diligently to resolve any outstanding questions from County Council members, and to otherwise take all necessary measures, to enable an affirmative County Council vote on Dr. Ball’s budget amendment;
- (ii) that the County Council then unanimously pass Dr. Ball’s budget amendment as proposed, during its October 4 meeting;
- (iii) that Dr. Ball ensure all steps are taken to have the \$1.6M of ARP funds made available to the BWC Program on October 5, 2021 (as proposed), immediately after the County Council vote. Given that this will occur without public notice, we ask that the County Executive provide transparency into this subsequent step.
- (iv) That Chief Lisa Myers, State’s Attorney Richard Gibson and County Sherriff Marcus Harris direct their respective agencies to take all necessary measures to prepare for and execute the implementation of the BWC Program (as summarized in Dr. Ball’s announcement yesterday) diligently and as quickly as possible.

The BWC Program is long-overdue for our County and we are encouraged by the steps taken this week. We will be seeking engagement directly with you over the next few weeks leading up to the vote on Dr. Ball's budget amendment, and also with the agencies that will implement and manage the BWC Program. We look forward to partnering with you further to ensure a full, expeditious and effective implementation of the BWC program, and that the BWC Program's operation, policies/procedures, training and oversight are aligned with best practices, full community engagement, effective law enforcement and the safety of our community and our law enforcement personnel.

Yours Sincerely

PATF-HC

By James Gormley