

CALVIN BALL
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DATE: October 21, 2021
FROM: Chief Lisa D. Myers *APM*
TO: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Legislation Establishing Police Accountability Board for Howard County CB83-2021

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 mandates the creation of a County-wide Police Accountability Board to meet quarterly with the heads of law enforcement and the county government to improve local policing; appoint civilian residents to charging committees and trial boards; receive complaints; review outcomes of disciplinary matters considered by charging committees; and submit an annual report identifying any trends and offering recommendations to improve police accountability in the county.

Howard County is fortunate to have a well-trained Police Department and Sheriff's Office that has earned and continues to hold the trust and respect of County residents and receives minimal complaints. Our commitment to quality service, community policing, transparency and social justice remains strong.

The Howard County Police Department will work closely with County Administration and County Council to provide all required information and technical assistance as they appropriately establish the membership of the board; create the budget and staff needed, appoint an impartial chair with relevant experience; and establish needed procedures to promote the community's confidence in this new entity.

We anticipate the Board will reassure the community that they are served by agencies of integrity and equity. We have long-held policies of zero tolerance for misconduct and are committed to operating with transparency. We welcome an independent board to observe first-hand the high standards we hold for every officer and share with us if there are any situations in which they believe we are not living up to those principles. As an organization, we expect no less from every member. Therefore, I offer this written testimony of support for local legislation establishing the Howard County Police Accountability Board, as mandated by House Bill 670.

