

Sayers, Margery

From: Doug Beigel <dbeigel12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Police Accountability Board

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

I am a long time county resident. My parents and I moved here in 1970. There are several key elements that drew us to this wonderful county. Knowing how the county was forming principles where my parents could retire and I would be able to raise a family as well as a national non profit accreditation organization in laboratory medicine.

I have committed myself to the health and safety of the county serving on the Police Foundation and Howard County General Hospital's board of directors.

I am writing to ask for your continued focus on making our county the best it can be. We are blessed to have a quality police department. Forming a Police Accountability Board helps us to be the best we can be. The following are ideas I request you consider:

- Select members to the Police Accountability Board who are objective and unbiased. This is critical since our county issues may or may not be reflected in the national narrative.
- Do not limit public feedback to a small faction of the community. Again, we are blessed to have an active community that wants to be engaged.
- Requiring the information discovered by the Police Accountability Board should be confidential. As we know, this Board will be only as good as the information that is supplied. It will do no good to have the press express an opinion based on leaks coming from the process.
- Maryland mandates that appropriate information be shared with the PAB. Their wisdom will serve us well. The PAB is not an investigative body. They need enough information to help assure we have the best policy department possible.

Thanks so much for your service and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Douglas A. Beigel

Sayers, Margery

From: Katie W <kxw116@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 12:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bill 83-2021 still needs improvement

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I'm writing to express my support for the Police Accountability Task Force recommendations for changes to Bill 83-2021 (available [here](#)). In particular the board must have power, access, and transparency. This means:

- removing of the confidentiality de facto 'gag order'
- removing of law enforcement officers and County Govt employees, retirees, etc. from eligibility for membership on the Police Accountability BOard.
- giving the Police Accountability Board access to all records, including body worn camera recordings, after critical incidents

Please push for these changes so that we get a Police Accountability Board that will actually help improve trust in and accountability for police in our county!

Best,
Katie Wilkins
10651 Gramercy PI Unit 257
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: patf.hoco@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:41 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; Sidh, Sameer; Arthurs, Maureen
Cc: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; 'Ted Stewart'; 'Jacqueline Akinpelu'; 'Hiruy Hadgu'; 'Faye Page'; 'bill cozzo'; 'Jim Gormley'
Subject: Police Accountability Board - urgent request for meeting

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To: County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball
To: Sameer Sidh
To: Maureen Evers Arthurs
Cc: Howard County Council Members
From: The Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County

Carpe Diem. We have reached a pivotal moment in Howard County for the cause of police accountability. We must together seize this moment, at the culmination of an outpouring of public demand for increased accountability in policing across our county, our state and our country. This follows the brutal murder of George Floyd in 2020, as well as so many other similar, unjustified and senseless law enforcement killings of black and brown citizens across America before and since his death. **This is why we act. This is why we fight.**

The Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (PATF-HoCo) believes passionately in the cause of police accountability. And we are confident that our HoCo law enforcement leadership shares our view that effective law enforcement requires, indeed demands, full police accountability.

It is for these reasons that PATF-HoCo, coordinating with its Coalition Partners, places great importance on ensuring that the new Police Accountability Board ("PAB"), mandated by the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, is established in a manner that enhances police accountability and that places Howard County at the forefront of our country in embracing police accountability as a key component of effective policing and public safety.

Sadly, Bill 83-2021 falls far short in meeting these goals. As we have recently noted:

- Under Amendment 3 to 83-2021, each PAB member would be required to sign the "necessary confidentiality or nondisclosure agreements." This is totally unacceptable as it would severely hamper the PAB's communications with the public on matters of police misconduct. This is blatantly inconsistent with the PAB's role of driving greater transparency and accountability into policing in Howard County.
- The original Bill 83-2021 is lacking any provisions that would give the PAB access to relevant law enforcement records or police body-worn camera recordings. Without such a right of access, the PAB is essentially powerless to provide any timely review of serious incidents of police misconduct or the necessary oversight over officer misconduct and police accountability for the Howard County community.
- The PAB's timely access to review law enforcement records and police-body worn camera recordings will be particularly important if a Critical Incident (an officer-involved shooting or other officer use-of-

force) occurs within our county. Yet the proposed Bill and amendments are silent on this vital subject, thus effectively sidelining the PAB at a time when consideration of police accountability would be of utmost importance.

- The original Bill 83-2021 would prejudice the selection of PAB members towards those who are former career law enforcement or county administration employees. This must be rejected. It is critically important that PAB membership reflect the Howard County community it serves, not potentially partisan agencies.

Following the tabling of Bill 83-2021 by the County Council on January 4, there is now a real opportunity to address these flaws. We call upon the County Executive to support Deb Yung's important amendments to the Bill. We call upon the County Executive to support adjustments we are seeking to Councilmember Rigby's Amendment 2 to Amendment 3 dealing with confidentiality. We also call upon the County Executive to support a new amendment providing the PAB with the authority to review law enforcement records and body-worn camera recordings expeditiously after any Critical Incident.

Without these changes, it is our view that Bill 83-2021 will actually do damage to the cause of police accountability in our county. We are striving to change this outcome.

We stand ready to work with the Administration to address the concerns we have raised over Bill 83-2021. We share Dr. Ball's view that the Police Accountability Board "*is an important tool to engage our residents in matters of policing and adds another layer of accountability.*" In this vein, we urgently request a meeting with Dr. Ball and his team to discuss our recommendations, so that we can move forward together with the creation of a Police Accountability Board that increases police accountability, promotes effective law enforcement, and enhances public safety in our community.

We will adjust our schedules to be able to meet with you at your convenience. Please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

PATF-HoCo

By James Gormley

Sayers, Margery

From: Kevin Murphy <kevin@browningreagle.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Police Accountability Board Input

Importance: High

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

January 11, 2022
To: Howard County Council
From: Kevin B. Murphy – Vice Chair, Howard County Police Foundation
Re: Police Accountability Board

Ladies & Gentlemen;

As the rising Chair of the Board of Directors for the Howard County Police Foundation, I would like to express my support for the Police Accountability Board and to urge the Council to ensure that individuals with appropriate expertise and unbiased views are appointed.

The vetting of any and all PAB candidates needs to be impartial, and strive to appoint folks that have no “agenda” regarding their duties, one way or another.

Established in 1994, the Howard County Police Foundation supports the department by fundraising to support innovative and new programs that are not funded by the county budget. Current programs receiving financial support from the Police Foundation include: The Bear Trax youth mentoring program and camp, Collision Avoidance Training for teen drivers, the Community Athletic Program mobile recreation center, We (heart) HoCo Kids, and National Night Out Against Crime. We are also providing support for health and wellness programs for department personnel that has been mandated by the state legislature, and ongoing community engagement efforts.

We have also provided funding for new equipment such as drones, specialized training, and the purchase of bicycles to allow for additional patrols on pathways and trails. In addition, the Foundation funds scholarships for officers who are pursuing their education and honors outstanding work by police officers and civilian employees at the department’s award ceremony each year.

Our support for these programs is done with the full recognition that the police department and the officers who serve are committed to the well being of our community. We are assured by their leadership on a regular basis about ongoing training initiatives that enables officers to respond with appropriate awareness and skill. We strongly support the training and development of a culture that recognizes the balance of law enforcement that keeps our community safe while ensuring that citizens’ rights are respected.

The Foundation has been proud to offer its support alongside the department’s leadership, and we believe we have been effective partners in recognizing the above principles, and plan to continue in our mission through the coming years.

Again, while we support citizen oversight, we believe it will be most beneficial if fair and impartial individuals take the time and concern to become familiar with the actual operations with the Howard County Police department and get to know how they have prioritized community engagement and transparent operations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or follow up. My contact information is below; please feel free to contact me at any time for further information.

Kevin B. Murphy
Vice Chair, Howard County Police Foundation
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Whatever excuses you may have for not having adequate life insurance now, will only sound ridiculous to your widow.

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