

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 2

Resolution No. 16 -2015

Introduced by: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa, and Jon Weinstein

A RESOLUTION requesting that the Howard County Police Department's Citizen Advisory Council establish a Committee on Community Policing and make recommendations related to community policing.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2015.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2015.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted_, Adopted with amendments_, Failed_, Withdrawn_, by the County Council on _____, 2015.

Certified By _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, both the Howard County Police Department and Howard County
2 citizens value safe ~~communitie~~ communities and fairness in application of the law,
3 protection of the public, and law enforcement and criminal justice practices and
4 procedures; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Howard County enjoys a relatively low rate of crime, high
6 standards of police conduct, the support of its citizens for safe communities and public
7 safety officials who protect them, and forward-thinking law enforcement leadership; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the County has embraced community policing by adding resources
9 to allow for more school resource officers and bicycle patrols, posting police in
10 neighborhoods, providing housing incentives for eligible officers to live in the
11 community, and engaging police officers as volunteers in numerous community and
12 charitable events; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Police Department has an active Citizens Advisory Council that
14 meets monthly with the Chief of Police and his staff; and the Police Department has
15 implemented numerous community-outreach programs, including a partnership with the
16 African American Roundtable; an expanded Community Outreach Section, which
17 includes a full-time multicultural liaison officer; a robust youth services program, which
18 includes a gang and violence-avoidance youth camp, known as P.L.E.D.G.E., among
19 many other community-based programs; and

20 ~~**WHEREAS**, in the absence of crisis, it is prudent to consider opportunities to~~
21 ~~focus on strengthening relationships between police and the community to improve~~
22 ~~public safety, including enhancements to police presence in the community; to the~~
23 ~~equipment and resources available to law enforcement officials, including new uses for~~
24 ~~technology such as body cameras; and to adoption of best practices in law enforcement;~~
25 ~~and~~

26 **WHEREAS**, in the absence of crisis, it is prudent to consider opportunities to focus on
27 strengthening relationships between police, community leaders, and the broader community
28 to improve public safety and mutual respect, including enhancements to:

29 (1) police presence in the community;

- (2) equipment and resources available to law enforcement officials, including new uses for technology such as body cameras;
- (3) community awareness of the daily risks faced by police in carrying out their duties; and
- (4) research and adoption of best practices in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, new uses of technologies, such as body cameras, must respect protections of privacy that are afforded by law to citizens and officers alike, and policies governing the adoption and new uses of technologies should reflect both the intention to safeguard those protections and to emulate best practices in selection and deployment of the devices without impeding the ability to safely and effectively carry out the duties of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, an examination of the potential for enhancements in community policing, including the use of resources which may strengthen community trust and confidence, is timely;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, this ____ day of _____ 2015 that the Council requests that the Howard County Police Department's Citizens Advisory Council establish a Committee on Community Policing that will:

1. review relationships between the police and the community and make recommendations to enhance existing successful policies and practices and seek out examples of model community policing programs ~~in the U.S.~~ for possible applicability in Howard County, including community outreach programs which offer training and simulation activities to enhance public understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the police as well as the risks and challenges they face;
2. evaluate the operation, impact and effectiveness of the county's seven Neighborhood Community Policing Offices and make recommendations as appropriate;
3. evaluate emerging technologies in law enforcement, such as body cameras, to determine if they may have application in Howard County;

- 1 4. investigate enhanced training opportunities for police to address growing and
2 changing County demographics, and make recommendations for implementation
3 both in the police academy and in-service training for employees.
4

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County
6 that as the Committee on Community Policing accomplishes the work outlined in this
7 Resolution it should consider, but not be limited to, all the factors listed in the preamble of
8 this Resolution.
9

10 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
11 County that the Committee on Community Policing should include members from a
12 variety of community groups, faith-based organizations, minority and business
13 organizations, and other groups that reflect the diversity of Howard County;
14

15 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
16 County that as the Committee on Community Policing accomplishes the work outlined in
17 this Resolution that it should solicit input from a variety of stakeholders, including,
18 without limitation:

- 19 1. The Chief of the Howard County Police Department;
20 2. The Howard County State's Attorney;
21 3. The Sheriff of Howard County;
22 4. The Howard County NAACP Youth Council;
23 5. The Howard County Police Officer's Association, Lodge 21;
24 6. The Howard County Sheriff's FOP, Lodge 131;
25 ~~6.7.~~Conexiones of Howard County;
26 ~~7.8.~~ The Jewish Federation of Howard County;
27 ~~8.9.~~The Howard County Muslim Council;
28 ~~9.10.~~The African American Community Roundtable of Howard County;
29 ~~10. 11.~~ The Korean American Community Association;
30 ~~11. 12.~~ The Howard County Chamber of Commerce;
31 13. The Columbia Association;

1 ~~12.~~ 14. The Howard County Association of Student Councils;
2 ~~13.~~ 15. The Howard Community College Student Government Association;
3 ~~14.~~ 16. The Howard County Mental Health Authority; and
4 ~~15.~~ 17. The Howard County Human Rights Commission.
5

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
7 County that as the Committee on Community Policing accomplishes the work outlined in
8 this Resolution that it should hold meetings, including at least two public hearings to
9 facilitate broad citizen input.
10

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
12 County that the Council requests that the Committee on Community Policing present its
13 findings and recommendations to the Chief of Police, the County Executive, and the
14 County Council on or before October 30, 2015.