

From: Poplar Hill Association, North Roland Park Assoc., Wyndhurst Assoc., Evergreen Assoc., Roland Park Civic League, Keswick Assoc., Guilford Assoc.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of **Senate Bill #929**

With the severe shortage of police officers in Baltimore City there is a real need to get the Maryland State Police to take over responsibility for I-83 from the City/County line to President Street. They already patrol the section in Baltimore County and they are especially trained for highway patrol.

The responsibility for this stretch of road currently falls on the Baltimore City Police Department and specifically on the resources of the Northern and Central Districts. With accidents occurring daily, and sometimes more than once a day, the burden on the BCPD has become overwhelming. In order to maintain the safety of officers, rescue personnel, and the public, it is often necessary to shut down the roadway in one direction. This requires a minimum of three police cars that must be diverted from neighborhood patrol duties for periods sometimes stretching to as much as two hours. The patrolling of, and response to, communities on both sides of the highway are seriously impacted by these frequent events.

In the past, it appears that jurisdictional issues interfered with the role of the Maryland State Police in Baltimore City, but now there are protocols in place for cooperation and this is a very discreet highway that can be managed as a discreet unit. In addition, this is a roadway that carries traffic from throughout the region. Most of the drivers are not from Baltimore City; they are work commuters, tourists or travelling to and from sporting events. With Maryland State Police enforcement, we might also see a decrease in the excessive speeds and a reduction in accidents.

The undersigned represent communities that are impacted by the current policy and respectfully request that our elected officials work toward having the State Police patrol I-83 through Baltimore City and free up Baltimore City police to patrol Baltimore City. Please make this happen.

Thank you for your courtesy and consideration of our request.

Best Regards,

Jay Newman President, Poplar Hill Assoc.		Robert Connors President, Roland Park Civic League
Doug Schmidt President, North Roland Park Association		Susan Joslow Vice President, Poplar Hill Association
Caroline Wayner President, Wyndhurst		Neetu Dhawan-Gray President, Keswick
Eric Schott President, Evergreen		Tom Hobbs President, Guilford

