

I am testifying in favor of SB178: Public Information Act - Personnel Records - Investigations of Law Enforcement Officers (Anton's Law).

I had family members, friends, and associates struggle to get access to officers' records when they filed misconduct complaints. It has been a frustrating experience to go through. I thought it was something of an anomaly however I discovered there are policies in place that literally protects officers from accountability of transparency. When the public does not know the depth and status of the investigation, the public does not know if a particular officer is a repeated offender of acts that should have gotten them off the force. It is literally impossible to get accountability if there is the systematic blocking of access to records that would have bring about a proper resolution.

By reforming the Maryland Public Information Act, there is the removal of the barriers to get proper resolution to an investigation. I believe that no family should have endured mine endured, nor other families to include Anton Black's family-who are still looking for answers as to what happened to him. Thank you for doing your part to make the changes to bring about equity in reforms.

Charlene Rock-Foster

Baltimore City Resident