



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** Senate Bill 63 – Marlow Heights Police Department - Establishment

**SPONSOR:** Senator Benson

**HEARING DATE:** February 3, 2021

**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** **OPPOSE**

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **OPPOSES Senate Bill 63**, which establishes a private Marlow Heights Police Department; this Police Department would not be an agency of Prince George's County and certain persons associated with Police Department would not be associated with Prince George's County. The bill further requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Motor Vehicle Administration to assist the Police Department with certain matters.

We are strong advocates for public safety and law enforcement in our County, however, we are also staunch believers in accountability – this is where the issue lies with **Senate Bill 63**. The establishment of a private Marlow Heights Police Department provides private entities the responsibility of public safety and policy powers, without the guardrails of accountability to the community or other law enforcement agencies.

In Prince George's County, it is essential for all law enforcement officers to function under the guidelines, principles and oversight of governmental agencies, not private industries. The creation a private-owned force with full police powers in the State of Maryland would set a questionable precedent regarding accountability in policing.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **OPPOSES Senate Bill 63** and asks for an **UNFAVORABLE** report.