

**Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 3, 2021**

**SB 63 – Marlow Heights Police Department - Establishment**

**UNFAVORABLE**

To Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee,

My name is Beverly John, a concerned citizen and community activist submitting written testimony in **opposition** of “SB0063 – Marlow Heights Police Department – Establishment.

I am opposed, in general, to the establishment of any additional local police departments within Prince George’s County due to community concerns of racial profiling and over-policing in communities, such as Marlow Heights, MD. The Special Police Department of Marlow Heights has been in existence since 1960. Marlow Heights and surrounding communities

Public safety is important and must be afforded all citizens. However, in certain communities, such as Marlow Heights and surrounding communities) over-policing has caused residents to feel unsafe while attending to their daily business. There are multiple arguments and statistics to support this issue that could be submitted.

But, at this time, I would oppose this legislation, which appears to be a re-issue of an earlier bill, SB810 that was proposed in 2016, on the grounds that several sections in the bill are not even relevant or do not reference Prince George’s County. For example:

- Article – Criminal Procedure defines a police officer as “a member of the police force of the Anne Arundel Community College; or a “member of the police department of the Johns Hopkins University.” There are other references to law enforcement from the Ocean Pines Police Department. Ocean Pines is on the Eastern Shore.

Secondly, there are references to a “Gelman Management” giving them authority to govern the department. These issues should be addressed.

Thank you.

Beverly John contact: [ccfbr.pg@gmail.com](mailto:ccfbr.pg@gmail.com)