

January 19, 2020

Hello Senator Carter,

Please accept this letter as The Baltimore City Civilian Review Board's formal support of Senate Bill 0178 Anton's Law.

The Baltimore City Civilian Review Board is the only entity in Baltimore City that is charged with investigating citizen complaints and issuing disciplinary recommendations officer's complaints of excessive force, abusive language, harassment, false arrest, and false imprisonment.

1. Based on the CRB Annual Report*, the CRB received 39 allegations of Excessive Force, 42 allegations of Abusive Language, 86 allegations of Harassment, 50 allegations of False Imprisonment, and 54 allegations of false arrest. **Excessive Force was the most sustained allegation of the reporting period, for a total of 47.8% of all sustained allegations.**
2. **The LEOBR excludes civilian oversight from the formal disciplinary process consequently, preventing the CRB from conducting an investigation that leads to discipline.** This means the CRB's investigations and recommendations are nothing more than recommendations, and that discipline is still entirely reliant upon the often compromised investigation of the police department, which renders the CRB virtually toothless to hold police officers accountable.
3. **The LEOBR and the CRB's enabling statute prevent the board from viewing officer performance holistically by allowing the expungement of formal complaints from the officer's record.** LEOBR §3-110(a)(2) and PLL §16-48(b). The CRB's enabling statute fails to grant the CRB access to information needed to conduct independent and through investigations as required for police accountability and transparency.
4. **The MPIA prevents disclosure of disciplinary files, which makes the administration of the CRB unwieldy and often unworkable.** We often make our recommendations knowing nothing about previous incidents, or previous disciplinary action taken against them. Recently, the CRB was asked to sign confidentiality agreements—this undermines public confidence in the CRB's work.

The CRB has a monthly meeting every third Thursday, where we discuss new complaints filed by citizens and review completed investigations by the Baltimore City Police Integrity Bureau and the CRB Investigators, for disciplinary recommendation. Information about the CRB can be found at <https://civilrights.baltimorecity.gov/civilian-review-board>.

Respectfully Submitted,

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*CRB Annual Report, 2017-2018, Current Report pending.

BALTIMORE CITY
CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD