

Worcester County Sheriff's Office

Matthew Crisafulli
Sheriff



Douglas Dods
Chief Deputy

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Our law enforcement officers have been met with atrocious behaviors during large scale events, such as H2oi. There were crowds, disorderly conduct situations and assaultive behaviors. Projectiles were propelled off of third and fourth story balconies, we had our law enforcement officers that had bottle rockets shot at them, frozen water bottles thrown at them and other projectiles. This type of assault on our law enforcement officers can result in serious bodily injury, or even worse, death. People participating in this disgusting behavior towards our first responders, must be held strictly accountable. In today's climate, our law enforcement officers and other first responders are being victimized at an alarming rate. This should be viewed as a hate crime when our public servants are out here protecting our communities.

Several of our police vehicles were damaged by the projectiles, two deputies were nearly impaled by bottle rockets during the event. The anti-police sentiment and violence toward first responders has escalated over the years during H2Oi. I fear that this behavior is going to get worse. Our first responders are deserving of this legislation to help ensure their safety while their bravery is exuded in these situations.

Worcester County deputies and first responders face the highest probability of injury during H2Oi than another time of year due to the large, disorderly crowds. My main fear is for my men and women who are out here keeping Worcester County safe. I fear for their safety. I fear for the safety of all of our law enforcement personnel, and I fear for the safety of our residents and visitors that are subjected to this type of assaultive behavior.

This type of legislation is imperative because it helps to ensures that first responders will be protected against violence while they're out protecting their communities.

This type of bill gives us some assurance that if someone is going to commit an act of violence or any type of act against our first responders, when they are out here bravely trying to perform the mission of keeping Worcester County safe, that they're going to be held accountable.

I strongly encourage a favorable response for Senate Bill 0099.

A blue ink signature of Sheriff Matt Crisafulli, written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli

“Proud to Protect, Ready to Serve”

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