

**JOANNE C. BENSON**  
*Legislative District 24*  
Prince George's County

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Finance Committee  
Chair, Rules Committee

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*Joint Committees*

Children, Youth, and Families  
Ending Homelessness  
Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight  
Management of Public Funds

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Chair, Prince George's County  
Senate Delegation



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Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson

SB 63: Marlow Heights Police Department - Establishment

Good morning Chairman Smith and esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings committee. Senate Bill 63: Marlow Heights Police Department- Establishment – will detail the Marlow Heights Special Police Department's complete creation and duties. The Marlow Heights Police Department will not be an agency in Prince George's County. Thus, this will require help from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Motor Vehicle Administration to aid with the Police Department's needs.

Senate Bill 63 will establish the Marlow Heights Police Department and provide protection for the Marlow Heights Community in Prince Georges County and enforce applicable laws in ordinance and county regulations. The Marlow Heights Department will serve over 10,000 citizens and allow police officers authority to carry out, enforce, and make arrest.

Major issues that the force currently faces are that officers must rely on their prior training from previous employment. Our communities must entrust those who are bound by law to protect them with proper resources and training. This means that a police status will need to be put in place to serve and protect the community's residents.

The Marlow Heights Police Department will be well equipped to protect the citizens' welfare if provided the opportunity to receive the title and resources. We have to think about the safety of all the residents of Maryland. We have to make the conscious decision to help eliminate crime by assisting the police departments and creating laws that will provide adequate safety that will protect and save lives.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 63.