



GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Community Initiatives · Service & Volunteerism · Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services · Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs
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March 22, 2022

Chair Maggie McIntosh
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 127 - Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund – Establishment

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office) is providing this letter of information for Senate Bill 127: Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund – Establishment.

This legislation requires the Governor to include in the budget bill for fiscal year 2024 an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to provide grant assistance to local governments and organizations to create and support police athletic league programs designed to build relationships among youth, police, and the community by offering educational and extracurricular activities with the goal of preventing juvenile crime; and requiring a certain report from the Governor's Office by December 1, 2022. The report would detail the number of police athletic league programs and programs with similar objectives in the State, including programs that do not receive State funding, and the potential for police athletic league programs to change behavior in the communities where the programs are implemented.

The Office works closely with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland and Police Athletic Leagues (PAL) to provide youth programming aligned with priority areas identified within the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN), which targets the dismantling of gangs and violent criminal networks. PAL programs in MCIN-designated areas provide an alternative, safe place for youth whose lives have been impacted by violence and other traumatic circumstances. That trauma, also known as Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACES, has been shown to have a direct correlation between physical, psychological or substance use disorders later in life, and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To address this, in FY21, the Office contributed \$450,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore, Inc. to be used at four BGC sites in Baltimore City. Much of this funding went towards partnerships between the Club and local Police Athletic Leagues. Governor Hogan included an additional \$450,000 in the FY22 budget to be used for expanding the programming of Boys & Girls Clubs and their participation with Police Athletic Leagues.

In addition, the Governor announced Project Bounce Back in May of 2021, which is a \$25 Million Public-Private Partnership to Support Youth Recovery From COVID-19. This series of initiatives will provide strategic mental health services, expand the footprint of youth development programs, and develop an innovative, data-driven digital solution to build post-COVID resilience among Maryland's youth, families, and communities. Through Project Bounce Back, the Maryland Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs will expand to every county in Maryland, prioritizing Title 1 school districts and rural communities, to reach 45,000 children across all jurisdictions with youth development programs and positive mentorship. As part of this expansion, the state is launching a new partnership between the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs to promote positive mentorships and grow community and police relationships, similar to the work of the Police Athletic League.

With the mental health and well-being of Maryland's youth being heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, PAL programming with Boys & Girls Clubs and Police Athletic Leagues are vital in our youth outreach efforts to ensure a Safer Maryland.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Cameron Edsall, Legislative Affairs Manager, at cameron.edsall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Yesim K. Karaman
Chief of Staff
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services