

Kevin Ward
Interim Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

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The City of Hyattsville understands Police Reform is a nuanced discussion. Absolutist reforms in any direction are not in the best interest of the public. A robust police reform agenda must maintain at its core an increase in transparency and accountability for potential bad actors while maintaining protections for police officers against frivolous lawsuits and complaints.

Police Reform & Accountability

The City of Hyattsville supports the general tenets of Police Reform outlined in HB670. This bill provides a comprehensive approach to police reform, and includes many aspects of police reform that the City of Hyattsville also supports, including:

- Like HB151, authorizes a repeal of the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights (LEOBR).
- Like HB139, establishes statewide standards on the use of force, de-escalation, use of no-knock warrants, and the duty to intervene.
- Like SB237 and HB707, returns control of the Baltimore City Police Department to the City of Baltimore.
- Like HB187 and HB152, implements a body worn camera (BWC) mandate for all officers state-wide. While Hyattsville has had a BWC mandate in place since 2016, we appreciate the difficulty municipalities may have with the expense of BWCs. To avoid an unfunded mandate, we support approaches that create grant programs to help offset the expense of BWC mandates.
- Authorizes a study to determine what 9-1-1 calls can be diverted from law enforcement to other community resources.
- Provides tuition assistance for public higher education graduates who serve as police officers for at least 5 years.

Prevent Sexual Abuse in Policing

Support HB411 and SB43, which prohibits officers from engaging in sexual activity with victims, witnesses, or suspects in their jurisdiction.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Reform

The City of Hyattsville does not support the complete removal of SROs from public schools. SROs have worked well in the City of Hyattsville feedback from both the general public

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and local administrators indicate an overall positive relation. However, the City of Hyattsville does support meaningful reform and further definition of the role and scope of SROs within schools. The City is in favor of some rules and restrictions to reduce abuses and inappropriate use of SROs as identified in HB522.

Mental Health Supports & Crisis Response

Mental Health Supports and Crisis Response services must be an integral part of any police reform measures. The City of Hyattsville supports:

- HB537 – broadens community support opportunities regarding the transportation of individuals experiencing mental health hardship for an emergency evaluation.
- HB977 – allows existing residential development fees in Prince George's County to be allocated towards behavioral health interventions rather than just public safety.
- HB108 – Creates a grant program to provide support for Mobile Crisis Response

Enhanced Transparency and Accountability

The City of Hyattsville supports the reforms proposed in Anton's Law (HB120 and SB178) which amends the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) to make records relating to an administrative or criminal investigation of misconduct by a law enforcement officer exempt from protections afforded by the MPIA.

The City of Hyattsville believes that meaningful police reform is necessary to promote public safety while maintaining the trust and confidence of the general public. This means ensuring increased uniformity and transparency across the State and developing workable solutions for municipal jurisdictions. Police Reform is a complicated and often controversial and requires appreciation for and an acknowledgment of various viewpoints. This discussion requires elevating from the polarizing nature of traditional political discourse using transparency, accountability, and public health, safety, and well-being as our guiding light.

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CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

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