



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Baltimore County Coalition Calls on Council to Enact Strong Police Accountability Board

WHAT: News Conference calling on County Council to create a strong Police Accountability Board

WHO: Baltimore County Coalition for Police Accountability, Lorena Diaz, ACLU of Maryland; LeAnna Harrison, CASA; Ryan Coleman, Niesha McCoy, Baltimore County residents; Randallstown Branch of the NAACP; Roland Patterson, Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP; Ericka McDonald, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Baltimore County; Lisa Barkan, League of Women Voters of Baltimore County; Steven Waddy, Anne Arundel Coalition for Police Accountability

WHEN: Wednesday, May 25, 2022; 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual event: Media can attend [here](#).

A Baltimore County coalition of advocacy and community organizations will publicly demand that the Baltimore County Council strengthen pending legislation to create a Police Accountability Board to investigate charges of wrongdoing against police officers.

The Coalition will call on the Council to pass legislation that reflects the following:

- The PAB must have independent legal counsel and investigatory powers.
- The PAB should include members who represent communities that have been disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, including a youth member, immigrants, and a resident who has a had previous conviction.
- PAB members must not be active or former members of law enforcement or their family members.
- There should not be any constitutionally questionable measures to restrict people previously convicted of any misdemeanor or felony from PAB service for ten years, which is an attempt to limit community participation from overpoliced communities.

“The demands of the Baltimore County Coalition for Police Accountability are clear; we want a board that is representative of the community, that has independent counsel, and investigatory powers,” said Lorena Diaz, community organizer for ACLU of Maryland. “The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 (HB670) provided a guide to the state of Maryland and left the door open for counties to create investigatory Police Accountability Boards. The Baltimore County Council needs to do right by their constituents, otherwise we’ll have the same system where only police are investigating the police. The whole point of repealing the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights was to allow civilians to do investigations that can lead to discipline.”

“A civilian-only Police Accountability Board, with the added transparency and accountability that it will bring, is an opportunity to enhance public perception of law enforcement and thus increase the public’s trust. That will make everyone in Baltimore County safer, including law enforcement,” said Peta Richkus, Baltimore County Resident for more than 15 years.

“The question presented by this police accountability bill is whether it deprives citizens of Baltimore County of equal protection under law,” said Roland Patterson, Legal Redress Chair, NAACP Baltimore County.

“It is important that immigrant community members have an ability to apply for a seat on the Police Accountability Board,” said LeAnna Harrison, Research and Policy Analyst CASA Baltimore/Central MD

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Baltimore County Coalition of Police Accountability members include: American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club, CASA, Common Cause MD, Communist Party of the USA, Baltimore Club, Indivisible Towson, Jews United for Justice, League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, Randallstown NAACP, SURJ Baltimore and Howard County, and 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Maryland/DC.