

# City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Office of the Mayor  
Kate Stewart  
KateS@takomaparkmd.gov



7500 Maple Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)

January 14, 2022

County Council President Gabe Albornoz  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

## Letter Sent by Email Only

Dear President Albornoz:

We are following up on prior letter regarding Expedited Bill 49-21 “Police – Police Accountability Board – Administrative Charging Committee – Established” which was introduced on December 14, 2021 and is scheduled for a second public hearing on January 18th.

Unfortunately, given the City Council schedule we are unable to testify on the bill at the public hearing on January 18th. However, we wanted to share our continued concerns with the bill.

First, we are disturbed that it was drafted and introduced without notification to or consultation with the City of Takoma Park. Since our Police Department, along with the Departments of Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Chevy Chase, will be covered by the legislation, we would have expected to be notified and consulted before the bill was introduced.

Second, we want to raise concerns about the qualifications included in the current bill because there is a need to ensure that the boards represent the community, not law enforcement or law enforcement aligned interests.

Third, we would ask the Council to consider requiring compensation for members of the PAB. Providing compensation will assist in removing potential barriers to participation.

Fourth, we request the Council review the conflicts of interest created by requiring the County Attorney to serve as PAB counsel, when the County Attorney also represents the MCPD and the County. Please consider providing the PAB with its own, independent counsel and staff in order to engage in the responsibilities delegated to it by the MPAA which include: reviewing the results of investigations of civilian complaints; reviewing disciplinary procedures of all law enforcement agencies in the County; and advising the head of each of those agencies and elected officials about improvements in policing.

Finally, please ensure that municipalities with police departments are included when the PAB provides its annual report.

We value having a collaborative and cooperative relationship the County Council and County Executive, and we hope to continue to grow and develop the relationship for the benefit of all our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Stewart', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kate Stewart  
Mayor

cc: County Executive Elrich