



**Testimony OPPOSING MC Bill 49-21  
(Enabling Legislation for Police Accountability Board and  
Administrative Charging Committee)**

**Fmr. Gaithersburg City Councilmember, Laurie-Anne Sayles on behalf of Progressive Maryland**

Tuesday, January 18, 7:30 pm ET

Dear President Albornoz, Vice President Glass, and Members of the Council:

Progressive Maryland applauds the County's recent pivot to hold a public hearing to expand the discussion of the Maryland Police Accountability Act/HB 670 (MPAA). We are confident that the County Council will vet this legislation through the public hearing process, deserving of such significant legislation, to ensure robust public engagement to finalize the new disciplinary structures mandated by HB670.

The MPAA calls for greater civilian participation in discipline and policing oversight. As such, we are glad the Council and the Executive have responded to please for engagement and provided additional opportunities for our diverse communities to give testimony *before the final bill is voted on*.

The following list summarizes our concerns as follows:

- The bill was drafted without any community input even though the bill was created to ensure genuine community involvement in the disciplinary process
- The bill only provides compensation for the ACC. Not requiring compensation for members of the PAB diminishes the importance of the work of that board and creates additional barriers to meaningful community participation, even if the current membership requirements are eliminated.
- The bill fails to ensure regional representation and diverse lived and professional experience.
- The bill requires members of the boards to have experience in one or more of the following areas: 1) Managing or evaluating the management of law enforcement agencies; 2) Evaluating citizen complaints against police officers; and 3) Personnel disciplinary proceedings as a manager, employee representative, mediator or arbitrator.

We look forward to working with the County Council, County Executive, and stakeholders between now and July 1, 2022, to ensure that our shared commitments to Reimagining Policing



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are realized in implementing the MPAA Bill.

Sincerely,

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