

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2023 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-056-2023
Draft No.: 1
Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety
Date: 06/15/2023
Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 5-0: Council Members, Dernoga, Burroughs, Blegay, Oriadha, Franklin

The Prince George's County Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee convened on Thursday, June 15, 2023, to discuss CB-56-2023 An act concerning Community Policing: Data and Reports for the purpose of requiring Prince George's County Police Departments to make certain data and/or reports available to the County Council and the general public regarding police activities. The reporting requirements will provide certain information, including but not limited to the demographics of the Prince George's County Police Department, the number of instances alleging use of force, and complaints regarding police officers.

This Bill will require the Prince George's County Police Department to create a more inclusive and open relationship with community stakeholders and submit a comprehensive annual report to the Prince George's County Council for the purposes of review and public comment. Public access to law enforcement records is currently dictated by State law and there are still some barriers to access under certain circumstances.

CM Burroughs the bill will make the work of the dept. more transparent. Intern expressed support.... Council member Burroughs detailed what the bill will do and its intent.

Sakinda Skinner, OCE, noted that the County Executive is in support of the legislation and what they believe is the intent but that there were questions that remain and that they have been working to meet and would still be agreeable to having a meeting. The Administration unequivocally understands and supports the need. The potential for a fiscal impact of \$4.5 million was stated. The County Council's Budget and Policy report notes that the cost should be closer to \$250,000.

Assistant Chief Hale, Inspector General Anthony Bennett and County Attorney, Rhonda Weaver also shared information with the committee about the legislation.

Chief Hale spoke of the need to include all law enforcement stakeholders and discussed a number of the reports that would be required and the agency that produces them many of which are not under the purview of the local department. They do not own some of the state-run information systems such as e-

tickets. Mental Health calls go to Public Safety Communications. None of the systems interact with one another. Another challenge to fulfilling the requirements of the legislation is that ethnicity is optional on most forms, so the forms are based on the judgment of the officer.

The Police Department's Annual report contains much of what is necessary to achieve the intent of the legislation.

Inspector General Bennett provided more information about the process and how the Department interacts with the other stakeholders such as municipalities. Quality control needs to be built into the bill and it could be a hard cost.

Chair Oriadha this will codify some of the good work that came out of the Police Reform Workgroup and the costs should not be as high because much of it is already being done.

Council member Burroughs reviewed the list of data sets required by the legislation and provided suggestions to the Administration that could be used to meet the intent along with reminders and suggestions that would reduce the fiscal impact substantially.

After further discussion, the Prince George's County Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted out CB-056-2023, favorably, 5-0.