

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Catherine E. Pugh**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*

**Marnell A. Cooper**  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

**Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Curt Anderson  
House Chair, Baltimore City Delegation  
6 Bladen Street, Room 314  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway  
Senate Chair, Baltimore City Delegation  
11 Bladen Street, Room  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: House Bill 52: Baltimore City School Police Force – Vehicles and Firearms – Report**

Dear Delegate Anderson and Senator Conway:

As per House Bill 52, I am writing to report on the condition of vehicles and firearms of the Baltimore City School Police Force and the anticipated needs for vehicles and firearms for the next two years.

Baltimore City's School Police Force currently maintains 36 vehicles. Our current FY18 need is to purchase 13 vehicles and place eight of the oldest vehicles out of service, which would increase the size of the fleet by five for a total of 41 vehicles. We recommend that eight of these vehicles be unmarked and that all 13 be SUVs.

In FY19, we will need to purchase five additional vehicles and place the five oldest out of service. We recommend that all five be marked sedans. By taking these actions, we will be able to retire all of the vehicles which are already over 100,000 miles out of the fleet within two years.

Due to our recent losses in manpower as a result of layoffs over the past two years, as well as the increase in calls for service in elementary/K8 schools, our School Police Force has a greater need than ever to be mobile and improve our response time to schools where officers are not assigned. Please see below for supporting facts and statistics:

- 18 of 36 vehicles currently have over 100,000 miles
- The average mileage of the 18 remaining vehicles is 69,962 miles
- School Police are only assigned to 37 of 180 schools (20%), which means 80% of schools must await police response during an emergency
- Most agencies replace police cars at 100,000 miles or at six years of age
- Only 4 of 36 (11%) vehicles are newer than six-years-old

With regards to weapons, Baltimore City's School Police Force has 151 Glock pistols, 9 Beretta pistols, and 4 shotguns in our inventory. Our only needs in this area are to possibly issue smaller Glock 23 models to detectives, which can be accomplished without cost by trading in existing model 22's for exchange.

We appreciate the delegation's attention to the needs of our school police force. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Alison Perkins-Cohen  
Chief of Staff

cc: Members of the Baltimore City Delegation  
Karen Stokes