

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

July 1, 2019

The Honorable Cory McCray
Senate Chair, Baltimore City Delegation
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Stephanie Smith
House Chair, Baltimore City Delegation
6 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Senator McCray and Delegate Smith:

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 maintains 34 vehicles. Our current FY20 need is to purchase 22 vehicles and place 16 of the oldest vehicles out of service, which would increase the size of the fleet by 6 for a total of 40 vehicles. We recommend that eight of the vehicles be unmarked and that all new vehicles be SUVs for traction in inclement weather.

In FY21, we will need to purchase 10 additional vehicles and place the 10 oldest out of service. We recommend that all ten be marked SUVs. By taking these actions, we will be able to retire all the vehicles which are already over 100,000 miles out of the fleet within a year.

Due to the reduction of manpower and the increased call volume for service in elementary/K-8 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 the 34 vehicles currently have over 100,000 miles.
- The average mileage of the 16 remaining vehicles is above 75,000 miles.
- School Police are only assigned to 37 of 180 schools (20%) which means 80% of the schools must wait for police response during an emergency.
- Most agencies replace police cars at 100,000 miles or at six years of age.

- No vehicles in the fleet are newer than six years.

With regards to weapons, Baltimore City's School Police Force has 156 Glock pistols, 9 Beretta pistols, and 4 shotguns in our inventory.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison Perkins-Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Alison Perkins-Cohen
Chief of Staff

cc: Members of the Baltimore City Delegation
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services