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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

May 28, 2019

The Honorable Brian Frosh
Office of the Attorney General
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Request for Opinion
Community Safety and Strengthening Act Section 24–1202

Dear Attorney General Frosh:

I write on behalf of the Office of Baltimore City Councilwoman Shannon Sneed to request an opinion from your office as to the meaning of Section 24–1202 Subsection (C) Paragraph (2). This subsection and especially subparagraph (II) leaves several words undefined and processes unclear. The term “campus-adjacent community” is unclear. What exactly does this term refer to? Does it refer to already in extant community associations? The aforementioned in extant organizations overlap with the boundaries of the “areas adjacent to the campus area” i.e., half the Washington Hill Community Association’s declared area is approximately inside the “areas adjacent to the campus area,” and approximately half of the organizations declared area is outside the “areas adjacent to the campus area”.

The “executed memorandum of understanding,” is this a reference to the memorandum of understanding with Baltimore Police Department or a separate memorandum of understanding? In subparagraph (II) a process is purportedly laid out for University Police to exercise authority in “campus-adjacent community”. How is the support in the “campus-adjacent community” to be

determined? Is it through the ballot box? Is it through community associations? If so, who within these community associations are allowed input; is it everyone within the community associations declared boundaries or only those who reside in the boundaries of the “campus-adjacent community”? Is it through a door-to-door survey? Who is to conduct this survey of support for the exercise of University Police power in the “campus-adjacent community”; the University, the City Council, or another party?

Within this legislation there are three defined campuses. Would it be permissible to allow the University Police Officers to exercise their authority, with community support, in two, or even one, of the three “campus-adjacent community”? Are the “campus-adjacent community” allowed to be bifurcated, in a situation where there is opposition to the exercise of University Police powers in one area of the “campus-adjacent community,” but clear support in another?

To clarify this matter going forward, I would therefore request a formal opinion so that it can be determined what these terms and processes are, in order to best execute this state law. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmly,

Delegate Stephanie Smith

Maryland State Delegate