



Blacks In Government®  
2018 National Delegates Assembly  
New Orleans, Louisiana



## RESOLUTION

### **BIG Supports the Community Empowerment and Police Accountability (CEPA) People's Coalition In Prince George's County Calling For Maryland State & County Law Enforcement Officials To Fully Implement Recommendations Outlined In The Enrollment of House Bill 1016**

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a 501©3 non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of Federal, State and Municipal government employees and today, BIG seeks to represent 2.5 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

**WHEREAS**, Statistical data compiled by the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI and other government and private organizations continues to show a pattern and practice of extreme disparate impact by law enforcement upon racial ethnic communities, groups and individuals,

**WHEREAS**, Daily news, social media and other reporting entities depict over aggressive policing, excessive force and targeting by law enforcement entities on a constant basis against ethnic and racial minorities,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Matthew Fogg the BIG National Vice President responsible for State issues, a Retired Chief Deputy United States Marshal, CNN, MSNBC, Press TV and other major news 'Guest' law enforcement analyst along with other police experts, have witnessed and/or reported on Federal, State and Municipal operations involving disproportionate racial profiling and police brutality against ethnic minorities often living in urban communities,

**WHEREAS**, because of the highly publicized 2015, police brutality and death of a Freddie Gray, a Black Baltimore citizen in police custody and the 1993 and 1999 shooting deaths of Archie Elliot and Gary Hopkins Jr., respectively, by the Prince Georges County Police which, culminated historic police misconduct incidents in Maryland's major cities, causing public outrage with social unrest and reported by news as rioting in Baltimore, Maryland,

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Maryland demand for police reform caused the promulgation of Maryland (MD) House Bill 1016 introduced by legislators at the state capital in Annapolis, Maryland during the Maryland General Assembly - 'Working Group on Public Safety And Policing', revised and enrolled on May 17, 2016, which, amongst other provisions, specifically makes changes in the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights(LEOBR)  
- See MD House Bill 1016 > <http://tinyurl.com/y8lk4lx9>,

**WHEREAS**, HB 1016 develops best practices for the establishment and implementation of a community policing program in each Maryland jurisdiction and in-part, (1) allows for two civilians to participate on police trial boards; (2) extend time a citizen has to file a complaint from 90 days to a year and expands who can file; (3) allows complaints to be filed anonymously; and (4) reduces the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights 10 day grace period for police being interviewed about allegations of brutality to 5 days,

**WHEREAS** legal and social justice organizational members from BIG, ACLU, NAACP, Urban League, Black Lives Matter, Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability (MCJPC) and the Prince George's (County) Peoples Coalition (PGPC) demanded legislative modifications to police procedures via testimony from experts including the BIG Heritage Chapter President Dr. Matthew Fogg, community organizers, victims and witnesses of police brutality -- all in Support of HB 1016,

**WHEREAS**, Supporters agree that HB 1016 moves in the right direction for greater police accountability and transparency in the Great State of Maryland but, still not enough,

**WHEREAS**, To date, the Community Empowerment and Police Accountability (CEPA) organization has reported that Prince Georges County Law Enforcement Officials have not fully instituted the HB 1016 critical provision which, allows for two civilians to participate on police trial boards involving police brutality and excessive force,

**WHEREAS**, the National organization of BIG recognizes that its largest membership base lives in the great state of Maryland,

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of its advocacy mission in support of State government operations, BIG endorses Maryland House Bill -1016 recommended, revised and enrolled by the Maryland General Assembly 'Working Group on Public Safety and Policing',

**WHEREAS**, BIG further supports the outstanding efforts of MCJPC (listed above) and, the Community Empowerment and Police Accountability (CEPA) people's coalition for Prince George's County to monitor and advocate for provisions In HB 1016 that CEPA reports, have not been implemented,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The BIG National President will write a letter to the Honorable Larry Hogan Governor for the Great State of Maryland, the Honorable Rushern Baker III, County Executive of the Prince Georges County, Henry P. Stawinski III Chief of Police for the Prince Georges County Police department and Melvin High Sheriff for Prince Georges County, expressing BIG support for the advocacy efforts of CEPA and further request full implementation of ALL recommended provisions in HB 1016 throughout the Great State of Maryland and more specifically, request that two civilians are immediately processed and placed on all trial boards not limited to but, including Prince Georges County as recommended in the enrollment of HB 1016.
2. The BIG National President will write a letter to Mr. Jonathan Hutto Sr. and Chairman of the CEPA expressing BIG's gratitude to be of service in this matter.
3. The BIG National President will write a letter to Mrs. Dorothy Elliot and Mrs. Marion Gray-Hopkins Founder of the [Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability](#), expressing BIG's condolences for the death of their son's and gratitude for their unweaving support to advocate for Maryland victims of police misconduct.

Submitted by:

*Matthew F. Fogg*

Dr. Matthew F. Fogg  
BIG National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
BIG Region XI - Heritage Chapter President  
Chief Deputy United States Marshal, ret.

*Ruth Benson*

Ms. Ruth Benson  
BIG National Legislative Chair  
& the entire legislative Committee

June 8, 2018

