

## WHAT IS THE CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD?

The Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City is the only independent agency authorized to investigate the police. The Civilian Review Board investigates complaints from the public that allege the use of excessive force, abusive language, harassment, false arrest, and false imprisonment. Also, the Civilian Review Board has the power to review Police Department policies and procedures and make recommendations to the Police Commissioner.



## CAN I FILE A COMPLAINT?

YES, if you are a victim of or witness to an act of excessive force, abusive language, harassment, false arrest, or false imprisonment by a law enforcement officer, you can file a complaint.

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## SHOULD I FILE A COMPLAINT?

If you are a victim of police misconduct, it can be difficult and intimidating to file a complaint. That is why a witness to an event can also file a complaint to ensure action is taken.

Filing a complaint means that your situation will be addressed and it can prevent other people from experiencing similar acts. Remember to get as many identifying details as possible during an encounter with a police officer. This may include the officer's physical characteristics, badge number, name, etc.

## HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

It is important that you file a complaint as soon as possible so that the events are still fresh in your mind. Your participation during the process of investigating the complaint is extremely important.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I FILE A COMPLAINT?

A copy of the complaint is given to you. The Board may then:

- 1) Conduct its own investigation independent of the police; or
- 2) Review only the completed Internal Affairs investigation.

After the investigation is complete, the Board will review the investigative report. The next step will be to recommend to the Police Commissioner to sustain, unsustain, exonerate or find the complaint unfounded. The Police Commissioner must consider the recommendation from the Board before he makes his final decision.

## WHAT AGENCIES CAN I FILE A COMPLAINT AGAINST?

The Civilian Review Board handles complaints regarding the following law enforcement units:

- Baltimore City Police Department
  - Baltimore City School Police
  - Baltimore City Sheriff's Office
  - Baltimore Watershed Police
  - Morgan State University Police
  - Baltimore City Community College Police
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## WHERE TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Please come to our office to file a complaint or obtain brochures Monday-Friday from 8:30AM- 4:30 PM at:

### **Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement**

Baltimore Civilian Review Board  
7 E. Redwood Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

## FIELD LOCATIONS

There are several other locations where you may file a complaint. They are:

### **Legal Aid**

500 E. Lexington Street

### **MD Commission on Civil Rights**

6 St Paul Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

### **Baltimore Police Department**

Internal Affairs  
2526 Kirk Avenue

### **Baltimore City School Police**

Internal Affairs  
200 E. North Ave, Room 002

### **Sheriff's Department**

Internal Investigation  
100 N. Calvert Street, Room 455

### **Online**

[www.civilrights.baltimorecity.gov/](http://www.civilrights.baltimorecity.gov/)

## Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights

7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

410.396.3151

Fax: 410.244.0176

[www.civilrights.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.civilrights.baltimorecity.gov)

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Equity and Civil Rights

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