

**PATF-HoCo's
2023 Annual Performance
Scorecard For The

Howard County
Police Accountability Board**



Date: May 22, 2024







Howard County Police Accountability Board PATF-HoCo's 2023 Annual Performance Scorecard

- PATF-HoCo prepared this scorecard for the purpose of informing Howard County's leadership, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), the media and the community about the 2023 performance of Howard County's Police Accountability Board (PAB)
- Criteria and metrics used for this evaluation are based on the PAB's performance in meeting its legal obligations under Maryland state legislation and regulations to ***ensure public accountability and transparency over the powers exercised by LEAs ⁽¹⁾ and to work with LEAs and the County Government to improve matters of policing ⁽²⁾***
- This evaluation is based on publicly available information only, including information made available in PAB open meetings and in its 2023 annual report

(1) Code of MD Annotated Regulations (COMAR) 12.04.09.03A

(2) Maryland Public Safety Code Annotated § 3-102

PATF-HoCo 2023 HoCo PAB Scorecard

Performance Metric	Score	Comments
1. Has the PAB taken specific actions to improve policing and ensure public accountability and transparency?		The PAB requested detailed 2022 LEA data on officer engagements with the public. However, failed to follow up to request updates to the LEA data on a quarterly basis, as they previously voted to do
2. Has the PAB made and advanced specific policy recommendations to improve policing and ensure public accountability and transparency?		Several significant policy recommendations were voted on and agreed to by the PAB (June 7, 2023). However, no action or follow-up was taken to advance these recommendations in any significant manner for six months... and then, only to mention them in its annual report (without any prescribed follow-up actions)
3. Has the PAB acted in a timely and diligent manner to improve policing and ensure public accountability and transparency?		PAB failed to follow up to address significant 2022 LEA racial disparities in policing data in an effective and timely manner. Belatedly, several months after receiving the data, they provided a limited recommendation in its December 2023 annual report, for an independent study of the racial disparities in traffic stops <u>even though traffic stops was just only one category of many</u> in the disclosed LEA data that manifested racial disparities in policing
4. Have PAB actions brought about specific and measurable improvements in policing and in public accountability and transparency?		No actual specific and measurable improvements in policing and in public accountability and transparency were implemented in 2023 as a result of any actions of the PAB.
5. Has the PAB engaged effectively with the HoCo LEAs and County Leadership to improve policing and ensure public accountability and transparency?		While the PAB met with LEAs to review results of disclosed LEA data, they failed, beyond calling for a limited third-party study, to secure satisfactory explanations concerning the causes of the racial disparities, nor any significant LEA actions to address the disclosed racial disparities.
6. Has the PAB regularly and substantively communicated with the public concerning its activities?		No efforts to communicate its activities to the public (outside of its legal obligation to hold public meetings and publish an annual report). Failed to adequately inform community of the significant racial disparities in HoCo policing. Effective communication could have provided transparency in policing, not previously available to the public

Executive Summary *

Summary of 2023 Performance & Observations

Overall Score



When the PAB was established in Howard County, some of the PAB members indicated support for the PAB taking a pro-active role in fulfilling its legal duty to *ensure* accountability and transparency in policing. However, a number of other PAB members did not share this view. This lack of consensus on the role of the PAB is reflected, in our view, in the failure of the PAB to meet or exceed the key metrics in this Performance Scorecard.

Significant factors in the PAB's low score are:

- The lack of urgency of the PAB in addressing the racial disparities in policing disclosed in the 2022 LEA data
- The PAB's failure to effectively communicate these racial disparities to the community and to Howard County Leadership
- The PAB's failure to take effective and timely actions to advance its policy recommendations

*** NOTE:** In the spirit of transparency, PATF-HoCo provided the PAB with an advance draft copy of this report in April and offered them an opportunity to comment or respond before this report was published. As of the date of this report (5/22/24), the PAB has not responded.

Executive Summary Continued...

Recommendations For 2024

For 2024, we urge the PAB to act diligently and proactively to take effective measures:

- to ensure that the LEAs/County Government effectively address the racial disparities in policing arising in all categories of officer engagement with the public.
- to request 2023 LEA data on officer engagements with the public covering the same data as requested for 2022.
- to summarize the 2022 and 2023 data (when received), including racial demographics, in an accurate and effective manner and make that summary available to the public.
- to advocate for County legislation to establish a legal requirement for the LEAs to periodically report and publish information, including demographic data, on officer engagements with the public.
- to advance the policy recommendations, and engage with the LEAs on the other policy issues, which were voted and/or agreed by the PAB in June 2023.
- to advocate to formalize a right in LEA policy and County legislation, for PAB members to have access (not subject to LEA discretion) to LEA data, records and recordings
- to build public trust as an independent stakeholder ensuring police accountability, including effective engagement with the community.
- to establish, with LEA leadership, a set of key metrics for tracking and measuring accountability and transparency in policing

Questions / Contact / Join Us



EMAIL
PATF.HoCo@GMail.com

WEBSITE
www.PATF-HoCo.com

FOLLOW US ON X
@PATF_HoCo

Appendix



Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (PATF-HoCo)



- Long-term Howard County residents
- Joined together Summer of 2020 after murder of George Floyd
- Organized to address issues and concerns around racial inequality and disparities in policing in Howard County
- Key Campaigns & Accomplishments
 - Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program
 - Police Accountability Board Legislation
 - LEA Racial Disparity Project (Current)

Our Highly Valued Coalition Partners



ACLU-Maryland	African American Coalition of Howard County	African American Community Roundtable	Chinese American Network for Diversity & Opportunity	Columbia Democratic Club
Howard County Citizen's Association	Howard County Coalition for Immigration Justice	Indian Origin Network of Howard County	IndivisibleHoCoMD	Our Revolution Howard County
Progressive Democrats of Howard County	Progressive Maryland	Silver Spring Justice Coalition		