



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Wes Moore

TO: All Executive Branch Agencies and Associated State Law Enforcement Entities

FROM: Governor Wes Moore

RE: Directive – Advancing Public Safety Through Public Trust

DATE: February 17, 2026

Public safety improves when government institutions act in accordance with constitutional principles and communities have confidence in those entrusted with public authority. Because public safety and public trust are inseparable, I am issuing this directive to establish Statewide expectations to reinforce constitutional policing, improve coordination among Executive Branch Agencies, and advance practices that promote both the safety and trust of all Marylanders.

Pursuant to my authority as the head of the Executive Branch of State Government under Article II, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution, as well as Section 3-302 of the State Government Article of the Maryland Code, I hereby direct all Executive Branch Agencies and State law enforcement entities to adopt the following policies and practices.

Core Principles

All Executive Branch Agencies and State law enforcement entities shall conduct their work consistent with the following principles.

1. **Constitutional Policing** - All law enforcement activities must comply with both the United States Constitution and the Maryland Constitution and all applicable laws ensuring due process, equal protection, and freedom from unlawful searches, seizures, or use of force must be faithfully followed at all times.
2. **Fairness and Equality** - Policing practices shall be free from unlawful discrimination, bias, and racial profiling, and shall be driven by objective criteria grounded in the law.
3. **Appropriate Law Enforcement Training** - Ongoing professional development regarding constitutional policing, de-escalation tactics, officer identification, procedural practices, and ethical decision-making is paramount to effective and lawful policing.

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4. **Respecting Maryland Law Enforcement** - Maryland's law enforcement officers deserve the utmost respect - from our political leaders and everyday Marylanders - for their courageous service and sacrifice to Marylanders; respect for law enforcement supports safer encounters and safer communities, improved communication, and increased trust in government.
5. **Community Partnership** - Public safety is a shared responsibility requiring collaboration with residents, community organizations, faith and civic leaders, businesses, educators, and all branches and levels of government. We are all safer when all Marylanders - citizen and immigrant alike - report crimes they've suffered or witnessed and help hold perpetrators accountable,
6. **Prioritizing Resources** - Consistent with SB245 and HB444, State law enforcement resources should be focused on protecting Marylanders from public safety threats, including through coordination with the federal government on joint task forces and the removal of violent offenders; and not the administrative enforcement of civil status against law-abiding non-citizens.
7. **Transparency and Accountability** - Executive Branch Agencies and State law enforcement shall maintain transparent policies, data collection, and accountability mechanisms to promote public confidence and institutional integrity.

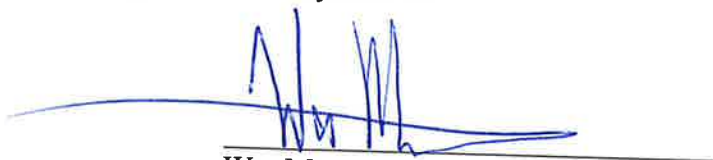
Directives

All Executive Branch Agencies and State law enforcement entities shall:

1. Strengthen engagement with the communities served, including communities that have historically experienced strained relationships with government institutions, through increased partnership, cooperation and communication;
2. Review all relevant policies, programs, and practices that intersect with law enforcement and public safety to ensure consistency with the above principles and identify opportunities to improve transparency, fairness, and accountability; and,
3. Work collaboratively across agencies and departments to ensure that policing practices are consistent with this directive, coordinate and share policies and best practices, including training, data sharing and accountability measures, to promote constitutional policing, prevent misconduct, and ensure transparency and accountability.

This Directive is effective as of the date indicated above. Nothing in this directive shall be construed to limit lawful authority, officer discretion, or existing intergovernmental agreements, provided such actions remain consistent with all applicable constitutional requirements.

Thank you for your continued leadership. Through shared responsibility and professionalism, we will continue to build safer communities for all Marylanders.



Wes Moore
Governor