



Fraternal Order of Police
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In 2018, Senator Bill Ferguson introduced legislation in the Maryland General Assembly to form a State Commission to Restore Trust in Policing. The objective of the Commission was to investigate the culture and corruption within the BPD, Gun Trace Task Force. The Commission was tasked with investigating and making recommendations to ensure the activities of the GTTF never occur again. The Commission has the ability to subpoena witnesses who may have knowledge of how the GTTF operated and as of this date, several members of the BPD have testified before the Commission.

On October 23, 2019, Commissioner Harrison announced a second investigation of the GTTF to be conducted by a Washington D.C. law firm. The scope of the review has yet to be established however, the law firm does not have subpoena powers. As a result, Commissioner Harrison has ordered all members of the BPD to cooperate in this investigation. This cooperation could include the production of documents and testimony, if required.

Like the State Commission, we expect a number of sworn members to be required to give testimony regarding their knowledge of the activities of the GTTF. If you are required to appear before the independent law firm, please contact our Lodge #3, law firm, SBWLAW at 410-685-2022, immediately. Please know that because you have been ordered by the Police Commissioner to appear and give testimony, nothing you say to the independent law firm can be used against you if criminal charges were to be brought against you related to this investigation (Garrity v. New Jersey, 385 U.S. 493 (1967)). Additionally, if questions are asked of you by a non-law enforcement officer, your responses would have been provided contrary to the safeguards provided to you under the LEOBR. Accordingly, those responses would be inadmissible in a disciplinary hearing under the LEOBR (Md. Annotated Code, Public Safety Article, §3-104(b)).

Prior to giving any testimony before this independent law firm, you should make it clear that you are not waiving any of your rights under the U.S. Constitution or the LEOBR and request a copy of any prior statement you may have given to the State Commission prior to answering any questions posed by the Washington D.C. law firm conducting the review of the GTTF.

Mike