

The Honorable Mayor Sheila Dixon  
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Dear Mayor Dixon,

I strongly urge Baltimore City to properly support its local law enforcement officers, including our local animal control officers. I also urge that the recently created task force on animal cruelty be continued. Crime in Baltimore is often inter-connected in many ways. The recent cases of horrific animal cruelty must be taken seriously. Not only investigations and prosecutions, but a presence of authority in our neighborhoods, will show our community that Baltimore does not tolerate violence, period.

Baltimore City Animal Control has historically been woefully underfunded. It is the responsibility of our government to keep all of our citizens safe. There is a link between violence toward animals and violence toward people. Animal abuse needs to be taken seriously for the safety of everyone in our community. I urge the City to properly fund its animal control function and continue supporting the fine police officers who take animal cruelty, a felony in Maryland, seriously.

Thank you,

‘The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.’ *Gandhi*