



Richard P. Barth  
Dean and Professor

525 West Redwood Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-706-7794

[rbarth@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:rbarth@ssw.umaryland.edu)  
[www.ssw.umaryland.edu](http://www.ssw.umaryland.edu)

April 22, 2015

Anthony W. Batts  
Police Commissioner  
Baltimore Police Department  
242 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baltimore, MD 21211-2908

Dear Police Commissioner Batts,

I am writing as the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Social Work--which is experiencing great distress about the untimely and tragic death of Freddie Gray--to express our eagerness to work with you to find ways to prevent such future tragedies.

As I hope you know, the faculty, staff, and students at the School of Social Work have a longstanding commitment to improving social, economic, and racial justice in Baltimore. Through the initiative that the School guides in Upton/Druid Heights and in other Western District neighborhoods, we have been working with our faith-based and community partners to strengthen families, schools, and groups. I want to reaffirm our continued commitment to provide any and all assistance to improve the quality and outcome of police and community services in West Baltimore and to prevent additional violence. We offer our readiness to work with the Baltimore Police Department and the community through our expertise in crisis de-escalation, restorative justice (along with our colleagues at the Carey School of Law), and community organizing and dialogue.

We are encouraged by the existing and growing partnership between the Baltimore Police Department and the School of Social Work. We want to more deeply engage with you to end violence and incidents of brutality. I look forward to discussing what we can do together.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Barth".

Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW  
Dean and Professor