MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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Contact: Cesiah Fuentes
latino-caucus@house.state.md.us

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS STATEMENT ON THE POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK TEENAGERS IN OCEAN CITY

Annapolis, MD—Over the weekend, incredibly upsetting and concerning videos surfaced of Ocean City Police officers use of force against Black teenagers. The Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC) supports the calls for a full, thorough, and independent investigation into these disturbing interactions. We also call for the officers in question to be removed from their duties until the investigations have concluded and appropriate consequences are decided.

Law enforcement officers are not above the law. They must be held at a high standard and accountable for transgressions.

The teenagers were confronted for allegedly vaping on the boardwalk. The situations intensified and became aggressive and violent. The question that needs to be asked is: how did a simple alleged vaping violation result in the violence witnessed in the video? In one video, it appeared that the teenager was ready and willing to cooperate with police officers, yet he was tased and hog tied. These incidents confirm the work left in police reform, accountability, and training; and we are committed to this.

Black and Brown youth should be able to enjoy their vacation and beach time like all other visitors. We send our support to those affected and their families. The MLLC continues in this fight for justice.

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