

Report to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, in Accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article on the progress of jurisdictions and the Department of State Police in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audiovisual recordings of custodial interrogations.

CP § 2-404  
SB 76/Ch. 359, 2008  
HB 6/Ch. 360, 2008

MSAR# 7174

December 19, 2014

Submitted by:  
Gregory Coster  
Maryland Statistical Analysis Center  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
410-821-2865  
[gcoster@goccp.state.md.us](mailto:gcoster@goccp.state.md.us)



## **BACKGROUND**

During the 2008 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed *House Bill 6, Chapter 360*. The bill establishes state policy that a law enforcement unit using one or more interrogation rooms with the capability to create audio and/or visual recordings of custodial interrogations shall make reasonable efforts to record interrogations of suspects in connection with cases of murder, rape, or sexual offenses in the first or second degree.

On or before December 31, 2009, and annually thereafter, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) shall report to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, in Accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article on the progress of jurisdictions and the Department of State Police in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audio and/or visual recordings of custodial interrogations.

In previous years, GOCCP has made funding available to local law enforcement agencies through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG), Law Enforcement Technology (LETC) grant program for "Custodial Interrogation Equipment." Additional funds have been made available through the Byrne Justice Recovery Act (BJRA) since the law was enacted in 2008.

## **METHODOLOGY**

GOCCP created and administered an interrogation room survey in Survey Monkey that was distributed to 132 law enforcement agencies around the state. The following information was collected:

1. Agency name
2. Number of interrogation rooms
3. The hardwired technological capabilities of each room (none, audio, visual, or audio/visual)
4. The portable technological equipment used in each room (none, audio, visual, or audio/visual)
5. Future plans for adding interrogation rooms
6. Future plans for purchasing new audio/visual equipment to each room
7. The funding source for each room

## **RESULTS**

Of the 132 law enforcement agencies, 102 completed the electronic survey. There were another 29 agencies that provided responses in prior interrogation room reports and indicated no future plans to expand the number of interrogation rooms or their equipment capabilities. Therefore, the 29 responses from previous years were duplicated for this survey. In total, data was collected

from 131 of the 132 agencies in the state (*see pages 6-11 for a full list of the respondents*). Only 1 agency did not provide a response.

***Number of Interrogation Rooms***

There are a total of 242 interrogation rooms statewide. 50 agencies (n = 38.2%) reported that they do not have an interrogation room, whereas, 81 agencies (n = 61.8%) reported at least one interrogation room. Prince George’s County Police Department has the highest number of interrogation rooms in the state, with a total of 30 rooms. Of the 132 total law enforcement agencies surveyed, 10 agencies (i.e., Anne Arundel County PD, Baltimore PD, Baltimore County PD, Charles County SO, Easton Police Department, Harford County SO, Howard County PD, Montgomery County PD, Prince George’s County PD, and the Maryland State Police) account for approximately 55.0% of all interrogation rooms. *Table 1 provides the frequency of interrogation rooms.*

<b>Table 1. Number of Interrogation Rooms (n = 131 agencies)</b>		
<b>Number of Rooms</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
0	50	38.2%
1	42	32.1%
2 - 10	35	26.7%
Over 10	4	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

***Audio/Visual Recording Capabilities***

Over 72.7% (n = 176) of the interrogation rooms statewide are equipped with some type of hardwired audio or visual recording capabilities. Of the rooms equipped with these technologies, the vast majority have both audio and visual recording capabilities. *Table 2 provides the various types of hardwired recording capabilities.*

<b>Table 2. Interrogation Room’s Hardwired Recording Capabilities (n = 242 rooms)</b>		
<b>Recording Capabilities</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No Audio or Video Capabilities	66	27.3%
Audio Only	8	3.3%
Video Only	4	1.7%
Both Audio and Video	164	67.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Of the 81 agencies with at least one interrogation room, 27.2% (n = 22) use some type of portable audio or visual recording device in their rooms. *Table 3 provides a breakdown of the various types of equipment, if available.*

<b>Table 3. Police Use of Portable Audio/Visual Recording Devices in Interrogation Rooms (n = 81 agencies)</b>		
<b>Use of Portable Recording Devices</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No Use of Portable Recording Devices	57	70.1%
Audio Only	16	19.8%
Video Only	0	0.0%
Both Audio and Video	6	7.4%
Unknown/Not Specified	2	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Most of the law enforcement agencies indicated no future plans for the creation or addition of interrogation rooms within their agency (n = 85.6%) or the purchasing of new audio or visual recording equipment (n = 89.3%). *The timelines are broken down in Tables 4 and 5.*

<b>Table 4. Police Agency's Future Plans and Timelines for the Creation of New or Additional Interrogation Rooms (n = 131 agencies)</b>		
<b>Future Plans</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No Future Plans	113	85.6%
0 – 12 Months	9	6.9%
12 - 24 Months	7	5.3%
Over 24 Months	0	0.0%
Unknown/Timeline Not Specified	2	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Table 5. Police Agency's Future Plans and Timelines for the Purchasing of New Audio or Visual Recording Equipment (n = 131 agencies)</b>		
<b>Future Plans</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No Future Plans	117	89.3%
0 – 12 Months	2	1.5%
12 - 24 Months	8	6.1%
Over 24 Months	3	2.3%
Unknown/Timeline Not Specified	1	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### *Funding Sources*

A total of 82 law enforcement agencies listed a current or future funding source(s) for their interrogation rooms. *Table 6 provides a breakdown of the various funding sources.*

<b>Table 6. Police Agency's Funding Source(s) For their Interrogation Rooms (n = 82 agencies)</b>		
<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Local	42	51.2%
State	18	22.0%
Federal	4	4.9%
Multiple Funding Sources	18	22.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

GOCCP will continue to support this effort through grant funding and provide annual updates to the progress of each law enforcement agency as required by law.

## 2014 Interrogation Room Survey Results

AGENCY NAME	SURVEY PARTICIPATION	NUMBER OF ROOMS	NO AUDIO AND VISUAL	AUDIO	VIDEO	AUDIO AND VIDEO	PORTABLE A/V	FUTURE PLANS FOR EQUIPMENT	FUTURE PLANS FOR ROOMS	FUNDING SOURCE
Aberdeen Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Allegany County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	1	0	0	0	no	no	no	n/a
Annapolis City Police Department	previous year	3	0	2	0	1	no	unknown	no	state and federal
Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters	yes	13	9	0	0	4	audio	6 months	6 months	local
Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	0	no	no	no	local state and federal
Baltimore City Community College Department of Public Safety	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Baltimore City Public Schools Police	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Baltimore City Sheriff's Department	previous year	1	1	0	0	0	no	no	no	n/a
Baltimore County Police Department	previous year	10	0	0	0	10	audio	no	no	local
Baltimore County Sheriff's Office	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Baltimore Police Department	previous year	18	16	0	0	2	audio	6 months	no	local
Bel Air Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Berlin Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	18 months	local state and federal
Berwyn Heights Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	8 months	no	local
Bladensburg Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state
Boonsboro Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Bowie State University Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Brunswick Police Department	yes	1	1	0	0	0	no	no	no	n/a
Calvert County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	9 months	no	local
Cambridge Police Department	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local

Capitol Heights Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Caroline County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	1	n/a	no	no	federal
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	yes	6	0	0	0	6	no	no	no	local and federal
Cecil County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	0	0	0	2	both	no	no	state and federal
Centreville Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Charles County Sheriff's Office	previous year	8	0	0	0	8	audio	12 months	no	local
Chestertown Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Cheverly Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Chevy Chase Village Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
City of Bowie Police Department	yes	3	0	0	0	3	no	no	no	local
Colmar Manor Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Coppin State University Department of Public Safety	yes	2	0	2	0	0	no	6 months	no	state
Cottage City Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Crisfield Police Department	yes	1	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	federal
Crofton Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Cumberland Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Delmar Police Department	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local
Denton Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Department of General Services	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
District Heights Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Easton Police Department	yes	8	4	0	0	4	no	no	no	local
Edmonston Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Elkton Police Department	yes	1	0	0	n/a	1	audio	no	no	state

Fairmount Heights Police Department	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federalsburg Police Department	yes	3	0	0	0	3	no	no	no	state
Forest Heights Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12 months	no	n/a
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local
Frederick Police Department	previous year	3	1	0	0	2	no	no	no	local
Frostburg City Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Frostburg State University Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	12 months	state
Fruitland Police Department	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	federal
Gaithersburg Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	24 months	local
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Gibson Island Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Glenarden Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Greenbelt Police Department	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local
Greensboro Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state
Hagerstown Community College Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Hagerstown Police Department	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	6 months	6 months	local
Hampstead Police Department	yes	1	0	1	0	0	audio	no	no	local
Hancock Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Harford County Sheriff's Office	previous year	9	0	0	0	9	both	no	no	local
Havre de Grace Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local state and federal
Howard County Police Department	yes	8	4	0	0	4	audio	no	no	local
Howard County Sheriff's Office	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Hurlock Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	12 months	federal
Hyattsville City Police Department	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local

Kent County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local state and federal
La Plata Police Department	previous year	1	1	0	0	0	no	no	no	local and federal
Landover Hills Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Laurel Police Department	yes	3	0	0	0	3	no	no	no	local
Lonaconing Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Luke Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Manchester Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Maryland State Police	yes	8	1	2	1	4	no	no	12 months	state
Maryland Transit Administration Police	yes	2	0	0	0	2	audio	no	no	state and federal
Maryland Transportation Authority	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state
MD - National Capital Park Police/ Montgomery County Division	yes	3	0	0	0	3	no	no	no	local
MD National Capital Park Police/Prince George's Co. Div.	previous year	2	0	0	2	0	no	no	no	local
Montgomery County Police Department	yes	20	0	0	0	20	audio	12 months	12 months	local state and federal
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Morgan State University Police and Public Safety Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Morningside Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Mount Rainier Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
New Carrollton City Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	12 months	local state and federal
North East Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local and state
Oakland Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Ocean City Police Department	previous year	2	1	0	0	1	no	3 months	no	state
Ocean Pines Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state

Oxford Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Perryville Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	18 months	local
Pocomoke City Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	audio	no	no	local
Preston Police Department	previous year	1	1	0	0	0	no	no	no	n/a
Prince George's Community College Police	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Prince George's County Police Department	previous year	30	15	0	0	15	both	unknown	unknown	local
Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	2	0	0	0	audio	no	no	n/a
Princess Anne Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	audio	no	no	local
Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state
Ridgely Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Rising Sun Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Riverdale Park Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	both	24 months	no	local
Rock Hall Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Rockville City Police Department	yes	2	1	0	1	0	audio	12 months	no	local state and federal
Salisbury Police Department	previous year	2	0	0	0	2	audio	no	no	local state and federal
Salisbury University Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state
Seat Pleasant Police Department	no	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Smithsburg Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	12 months	local
Snow Hill Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Somerset County Sheriff's Office	previous year	1	1	0	0	0	no	no	no	local state and federal
Spring Grove Hospital Center Police	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local and state
St. Michaels Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local state and federal
Sykesville Police Department	previous year	1	0	0	0	1	no	12 months	no	local

Takoma Park Police Department	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	6 months	no	local
Talbot County Sheriff's Office	yes	1	0	0	0	1	both	no	12 months	local state and federal
Taneytown Police Department	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Thurmont Police Department	yes	2	2	0	0	0	no	no	no	n/a
Towson University Police	yes	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	state
Trappe Police Department	previous year	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
University of Baltimore Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
University of Maryland Baltimore County Police	yes	1	0	0	0	1	both	6 months	no	state
University of Maryland Baltimore Police	yes	2	2	0	0	0	audio	12-24 months	no	state
University of Maryland Eastern Shore Department of Public Safety	previous year	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	24 months	state
University of Maryland, College Park	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	state
University Park Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Upper Marlboro Police Department	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	n/a
Washington County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	state
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Police	yes	1	1	0	0	0	audio	no	no	local
Westminster Police Department	yes	1	1	0	0	1	no	no	no	local
Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	yes	2	0	0	0	2	no	no	no	local
Worcester County Sheriff's Office	previous year	1	0	0	0	1	no	no	no	Local