

TIPS for handling encounters with police

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Never consent to searches If police search you or your car, belongings or home they must have a warrant or 'probable cause.' If police search you without the above, state calmly and firmly: *'I do not consent to this search.'*

Ask: 'Am I being detained?' If you are not detained, you have the right to leave. Ask: *'Am I free to go?'* If you are not free to go, ask: *'Am I under arrest?'*

Do not answer questions You do not have to answer any questions other than your name and address.

If you are under arrest Do not give statements or other information without an attorney. Say: *'I would like to speak to an attorney.'*

Get badge numbers & names If it is safe, try to memorize or obtain badge numbers. As soon as possible, write down the details of your encounter with the police.



If you have been abused by police and want to file for damages with Baltimore City: You have a 6 month period from the time of the incident to contact the City in writing to make a claim. There are different time periods for claims with other agencies such as the federal government and the State of Maryland. It's best to contact an attorney quickly.

You have the right to observe, photograph, record & film police activities If you would like to get more information on how to film and record police safely, contact the **Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly** at:
443-221-3775

Join the 'Know your rights/cop watch' campaign Help to set up a cop watch in your neighborhood or community.