

## Maj. Mike Hilliard (Ret.) Baltimore Police Department, Maryland Baltimore, MD

Michael Hilliard began his 27-year policing career in 1975 as a patrolman in an economically depressed neighborhood in East Baltimore. He served as an internal affairs detective where he coordinated Baltimore youth programs and led an undercover squad that investigated violent crimes and low-to mid-level drug crimes. As a lieutenant assigned to the Northeast District, he helped establish the largest citizens' patrol in the mid-Atlantic area, the NorthEast Citizens' Patrol. Hilliard also served six Chiefs of Patrol as an executive officer. In his final position before retirement, he directed 911 operations and police dispatch as a major in the Communications Division.

Hilliard noticed during his narcotics work that violence erupted when police arrested the head of an organization. He observed, "The subordinates don't sit down with lawyers; they kill each other over territory." While serving in the Chief of Patrol's office, he lobbied for narcotics units to warn patrol units before high-level busts, so they could prepare for the violent fallout.

After retirement, Hilliard became Community Services Director at HARBEL, a nonprofit community organization that provides alcohol and drug abuse prevention and recovery, housing, crime prevention, and other neighborhood services. He assists the leaders of the 27 member communities in stabilizing and improving these communities with respect to crime, housing, sanitation, zoning, transportation, and education.

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