

To the Maryland Senate:

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 276 (SB0276), which would repeal Johns Hopkins University's (JHU) ability to form a private police force (JHUPD). I ask that you join the community by voting in support of SB0276 for the following reasons:

1. The area that private police will be deployed, especially the Middle East neighborhood, is already heavily policed and Hopkins security is already a huge presence.
2. Over 6,152 community members stated our opposition to the police force in [this petition](#), which has not been acknowledged by JHU's administration. **We can't anticipate accountability of any future JHUPD if the administration will not listen to, or even acknowledge, community members who oppose the formation of JHUPD.** JHU's actions have excluded dissenting voices, including the voices of those who would be most affected by JHUPD, which does not bode well for an accountable police force.
3. Over the years, JHU has made many promises to the Middle East area around their medical campus, including the Minority Inclusion Agreement. In 2002, this agreement promised 8,000 new jobs and a community reinvestment fund in East Baltimore. As of 2019, JHU has created about 1,500 new jobs—20% of what they promised. Instead, JHU compounded the damage of their broken promises by forcibly removing over 700 families from their homes.
4. Baltimore has proof of the harm that university policing brings. Seven years ago, Tyrone West was killed by a Morgan State University officer.
5. Research and history show that police reform is ineffective. We've seen six years of reform efforts implemented in the wake of the 2014 killings of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, and too many others. All of that reform didn't save Freddie Gray, Alton Sterling, Korryn Gaines, Walter Scott, Breonna Taylor, or George Floyd. Additional attempts at reform will not save lives, just as it didn't save the aforementioned individuals and many, unnamed others.
6. We want JHU to place the funds that were intended for JHUPD, and more, in the hands of communities, such as residents of Middle East near the medical campus. Instead of embarking on new projects like JHUPD, JHU should implement what they have already committed to and neglected to see through in the past (ex. the 2002 Minority Inclusion Agreement). The safety that JHU claims to desire can only be achieved through the empowerment of the communities that JHU has devastated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will support SB0276 for the safety and prosperity of our Baltimore communities.

Sincerely,
Aden Weisel