

Hello, my name is Maggie Lewis and I am writing this testimony in support of SB0276, to repeal Hopkins' private police. Over 6,152 community members stated our opposition to the police force in this petition which has still not been acknowledged by Hopkins administration. How can we expect the accountability of any future JHUPD if its administration will not even take accountability to deeply listen to, or acknowledge, community members who oppose the formation of the force? Johns Hopkins's actions, which have excluded dissenting voices, including the voices of those who would be most affected by JHUPD, do not bode well for an accountable police force.

Research and history show that reform is ineffectual. We've had six years of reform efforts implemented in the wake of the 2014 killings of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, and way too many others. Yet, all of that reform didn't save Freddie Gray, or Alton Sterling, or Korryn Gaines, or Walter Scott, or Breonna Taylor, or George Floyd. Reform was not worth those lost lives and it certainly is not worth another. I am urging the University to place the funds that were intended for JHPD, and more, in the hands of communities, such as residents of the 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: the Minority Inclusion Agreement, which in 2002 promised 8,000 new jobs and a community reinvestment fund in East Baltimore. This is what the safety Johns Hopkins claims to desire looks like. I urge you to pass SB0276 in order to repeal Hopkins' private police force. Thank you for your time.