

Hello,

I am writing in support of SB0276 to repeal JHU's Private Police initiative. I am a resident of Better Waverly and a small business Tattoo studio owner in Remington and I am strongly against the establishment of a private, armed police department operated by Johns Hopkins and for the good of the community I live in and the community I work in for the reason listed below.

- 1) The area that the private police will be deployed is already heavily attended to and surveilled by Hopkins security officers. There is absolutely no need to have a more heavily armed presence in these neighborhoods.
- 2) The presence of police in these neighborhoods *and those of Middle East Baltimore* will serve to make the Black and non-white residents and business patrons of these neighborhoods significantly more unsafe with negative public health outcomes (Study: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5388955/>). As a business owner near the Homewood campus with a clientele that is approximately 60% African American the presence of additional police will directly detract from my livelihood and ability to cultivate a safe environment for my clients.
- 3) JHU has shown no accountability towards any of the communities that it has garnered feedback from after over 6100 community members stated their opposition to the police force AND their own community of students - both graduate and undergraduate - protested this initiative. In fact, they employed the Baltimore City Police to arrest and remove their own students from the campus.
- 4) Washington University in St Louis, my alma mater, which does have a private Washington University Police Department, deployed their department against myself and 6 other undergraduates engaging in nonviolent student protest over inequitable administrative decisions. Their department arrested us and immediately turned us over to St Louis County Police to file criminal proceedings after charging us with trespassing on **the campus we attended school**, washing their hands of the situation and taking no disciplinary or restorative steps with us at the university level. University private police **will** be deployed against their own students only to create **more work for BPD** and waste **more City resources** by criminalizing their students and staff rather than establishing protocols of accountability within their institution.
- 5) **The money that JHUPD will inevitably drain from Baltimore's budget directly or indirectly will be better spent investing in community directed public health and safety initiatives.** JHU is the largest land-owning entity in Baltimore yet pays zero property taxes - withholding from the city budget a possible additional **114 million dollars** that could go to integrated, non-policing public health and safety. Why allow them to take more from us?

Sincerely,  
Georgia McCandlish.