

To: Judicial Proceedings for SB0276 Repeal Johns Hopkins Police Department

Position: Favorable

I am a resident in the 43rd district, a Doctor in Public Health and Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. My family and I have lived in Baltimore for generations.

JHU has actively ignored, dismissed, and evaded residents, students, staff, and critical stakeholders to pass previous legislation. They communicated with the legislature more than they did with Baltimore City, and the people they claim they “serve” and the police will serve, to get previous bills passed – how is that ok with you?

Please consider that no amount of money makes Hopkins behavior ok. The fact **that they criticize the police department when they don't pay taxes** and think they can do a better job when they have **no experience or record of this capacity in the community**, should be enough to **repeal this incredibly undeserved power to police.**

As stated by the American Public Health Association, law enforcement violence is a public health issue. This goes far beyond the economics and fiduciary responsibility you have as senators to balance the budget. Claiming financial or budgetary restrictions does not excuse you from your job to, at least, not create an environment that encourages law enforcement violence. The JHU private police does exactly this. It is an invitation for increased policing over vulnerable populations- senior citizens, black residents, students dealing with sexual assault and violence.

Everything about the Hopkins private police initiative goes against what I was taught at Johns Hopkins, from social, environmental, racial, community and spiritual standpoints.

Since previous legislation was passed granting Hopkins private police and paving the way for many more private police forces, Hopkins relationship with my neighborhood has only deteriorated.

We have reported racist social media profiles of current security officers and professors that physically assaulted students with ZERO recourse for the perpetrators violent behavior.

They are still on the security force or were able to quit without repercussions. These instances alone indicate how damaging the Hopkins private police will be on students and the surrounding community.

If you do not repeal this bill, you are going against guidance from the American Public Health Association – the largest public health professional institution in the United States. In their national policy statement on Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a public health issue, they detail how the “trainings” Hopkins claims they want to be done and technology they want to employ has already failed in addressing the issues of police violence. They state:

A public health strategy that centers community safety and prevents law enforcement violence should favor community-built and community-based solutions. APHA recommends the following actions by federal, state, tribal, and local authorities: (1) eliminate policies and practices that facilitate disproportionate violence against specific populations (including laws criminalizing these populations), (2) institute robust law enforcement accountability measures, (3) increase investment in promoting racial and economic equity to address social

determinants of health, (4) implement community-based alternatives to addressing harms and preventing trauma, and (5) work with public health officials to comprehensively document law enforcement contact, violence, and injuries.

Over 6,152 community members stated our opposition to the police force in [this petition](#) submitted as written testimony in addition to the thousands of signatures collected against the 2 previous attempts for creating the private police. None of this community feedback has been acknowledged by Hopkins administration. We have not been contacted or engaged with. **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.

Over the years, JHU has made many promises to the Middle East area around the medical campus, including the Minority Inclusion Agreement, which in 2002 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, Hopkins broke their promises while still forcibly removing over 700 families from their homes.

In the death of Tyrone West, whose life was taken seven years ago by a Morgan State officer, we see the harm that University policing promises—in this case it was a Morgan State officer.

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.

We want 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.

May God have mercy on you,

Dr. Andrea Fraser