

I am testifying in favor of SB786 -Law Enforcement Reform FOR the purpose of providing that the Police Department of Baltimore City is an agency and instrumentality of the City of Baltimore, instead of the State.

For over 150 years, Baltimore City did not have control of its own police department, except for having the power since the 1970s in hiring and firing commissioners. For years, the residents contended with a public safety system that was, and still is, ripe for unfettered violence, misconduct, and corruption, well documented in the media and in books. A few examples:

- Baltimore City Officer Sergeant James Lloyd, who was the lead investigator in the 2017 death of Detective Sean Suiter, was arrested July 9th, 2020 is held without bail for kidnapping and extortion. There are reports of three more officers involved in this extraordinary inappropriate attempt at resolving unsatisfactory contractual work.

- A video was recently released contradicting Baltimore City PD Sergeant Welton Simpson's account of being assaulted back on January 17, 2020. Zayne Abdullah, one of the defendants, is facing felony charges over this alleged assault that both the commissioner and the governor strongly denounced in January.

- Two published books- "I Got a Monster: The Rise and Fall of America's Most Corrupt Police Squad" Baynard Woods and Brandon Soderberg and "The Men of Mobtown Policing Baltimore in the Age of Slavery and Emancipation" By Adam Malka give an in-depth look at policing's unsavory history.

- The Uprising of 2015 and the DOJ report that followed exposing widespread violations and corruption, resulting in the implementation of the current consent.

Note that the residents in the city have been, and still are, paying the extraordinary costs of police misconduct which includes in 2019, judgements & lawsuits of \$654,236 and legal fees of \$1,192,719 combined for a total of \$1,846,955 thus far and in 2020, a reported 8 million dollars in settlement from the Gun Trace Task Force lawsuit.

A city-controlled police department allows for more transparency, localized resolution of lawsuits, and more community involvement of policing, simply put. Thank you in advance for making the BOLDEST MOVE to finally return local control of the police department back to the residents of Baltimore city.

Sincerely,

Charlene Rock-Foster
Baltimore City Resident