

This is my (Daphne Mack's) testimony in support of bill SB0276 to repeal Hopkins Police. I live very close to Johns Hopkins University and many of my friends live in the Middle East neighborhood. This area is already heavily policed and JHU security has a large presence there. It is in the community's best interest to repeal the Hopkins Police, as faculty, students, and community members have stated our opposition (but have yet to be acknowledged by the JHU administration). If the Hopkins administration cannot put in the effort to deeply listen to those who will be affected by their police, then we cannot expect accountability from them either, especially since the police force would be answering to that same administration. History has shown that police reform is ineffectual. Six years of reform efforts have been implemented throughout the country in the wake of the 2014 killings of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, and too many more. Yet these reforms did not save Freddie Gray, Alton Sterling, Korryn Gains, Walter Scott, Breonna Taylor, or George Floyd. Reform did not help those lost lives and continuing to expand Hopkin's security measures is certainly not worth another life lost in the community.

We want John Hopkins University to reallocate the funds that were intended for JHPD and place it in the hands of the community, more specifically meaning the residents of Middle East near the medical campus. Instead of embarking on new projects like JHPD, the University 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. As of 2019, JHU has only created 1,500 new job (20% of what was promised). Reinvesting in the community is what the safety Johns Hopkins claims to desire looks like.