

February 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Arch McKown. I'm the Safety Committee Chairperson of Patterson Park Neighborhood Association. I'm widely regarded by area neighborhood associations, community leaders, public safety employees and politicians here as a "go to person for community safety matters in the SE District of Baltimore." I've been in this role for several years. My family and I reside in Butcher's Hill Neighborhood and we are extremely active in the community here volunteering-wise.

I am writing to express my opposition to MD House Bill 1284, which would eliminate JHPD.

Our neighborhoods surrounding JHU medical campus are vibrant and growing with many families and employees of JHU. Quite a few employees walk or bike to work, or make the short drive and then park in the neighborhood.

A continued issue in this area is street robbery and car jacking. Often times, the victim is an employee of JHUMC who is simply commuting to work or doing an act like unloading groceries from their car after stopping at the market after work. Car jacking and armed robbery, incident-wise, dropped in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, but we continued to see dozens of instances in the vicinity of JHUMC. Once Covid restrictions are lifted, we expect to see armed street robberies and car jacking increase again in this vicinity, back to prior numbers.

Clearly, the SE District of BPD is undermanned to patrol this area. I know for a fact that often times, those posts (12 post and 21 post) are empty as the post officer must attend to another call or process a call. Obviously, a marked police presence results in decreased crime in that vicinity. This fact has been borne out in published studies looking at causation vs correlation.

We in the community are united against police brutality, institutional racism and we greatly support constitutional policing. I whole heartedly support all of those notions in theory and in practice. I also support the fact that a sworn police department will result in a safer environment for ALL individuals in the immediate vicinity of JHUMC. We need the JHUPD here.

I fully support implementation of the JHPD and I oppose MD House Bill 1284.

Thanks,

Arch C. McKown