

Muyinatu Bell, PhD  
6710 Fairford Ln  
Baltimore, MD 21209

February 19, 2021

**Re: Support for Bill #1284**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Muyinatu Bell, of residence 6710 Fairford Ln in Congressional District 3, and I am a professor at Johns Hopkins University. I support **Bill 1284**. Prior to living in Baltimore, I was a resident of New York City with Giuliani and Bloomberg as my mayors. As an African American teen growing up in this era, I witnessed how their tough-on-rime attitudes negatively impacted my community, and I do not want to see the same thing happen to the Baltimore community surrounding the JHU campus. I am of the opinion that no amount of training or legislation can expel racism from the hearts and minds of officers who serve, leading to tragic incidents like the murders of George Floyd and Freddie Gray while in police custody.

With all due respect, these policies are safer for people that look like Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg, but unfortunately they are not safer for me or for those who look like me, which represents a large cross-section of the community surrounding JHU and an appreciable cross section of our student body, faculty, and staff. We need completely new policies for this mixed environment, not the creation of yet another police force that will contribute to growing contentions.

Supporting **Bill 1284** at this time would also be consistent with the reformation, disbanding, and defunding of police departments taking place in cities around the nation. I believe that it would be prudent of us to be the leaders in this endeavor, to move forward and not backward. Let's not give ourselves, our city, our world-class university, my years worth of work and research livelihood -- let's not give these things the opportunity to become the next focus of community anger, aggression, and rage, the next hashtag, or the next microcosmic symbol of police brutality with the formation of a private police force.

As there has been no significant implementation, you now have an excellent opportunity to reverse legislation that is highly unpopular. You now have the opportunity to rectify a major setback when it comes to improving trust between JHU and its Black neighbors, which is a continuing source of controversy in Baltimore city.

I urge the committee to support **Bill 1284**.

Sincerely,



Muyinatu Bell, Ph.D.