

I am Michael Lent, a resident of district 08 providing written testimony in support of HB1284, to repeal Hopkins's private police.

The area that private police will be deployed, the Middle East neighborhood, is already heavily policed, and Hopkins security is already a huge presence. Over the years, JHU has made many promises to the Middle East area, 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. Hopkins broke their promises while still forcibly removing over 700 families from their homes. 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. This is what the safety Johns Hopkins claims to desire looks like.

We as a state should be focused on safety and prevention not creating new or expanded levels of force.

Thank you for your time.