

I am a student at Johns Hopkins University, and I am strongly opposed to the existence of the JHPD and I write today in favor of its repeal. Safety on campus is an issue I think about constantly and adding more violent, armed actors will only hurt the public safety of our community. We have had several instances on campus where BPD officers were called to assist in student incidents such as mental health crises or epileptic seizures. In every case, officers responded violently and escalated the situation further. A JHPD that is active on and around campus will force black and brown or disabled students into a permanent state of being on-edge trying to avoid violent interactions with the police.

Furthermore, JHU has consistently demonstrated their inability to hold themselves or their personnel accountable for dangerous actions. Our university has experienced rampant sexual assault at fraternity houses that has gone utterly unchecked by the Office of Institutional Equity, with survivors often forced to recount their trauma to a scrutinizing review board only to see their case languish in bureaucratic purgatory. Adding an armed police force that answers to the university and not to the public will only exacerbate the issue of unaccountability in campus affairs and eliminate the already narrow set of options we students have to protect ourselves.

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