

Name: Jake Carducci

Position: Favorable

Bill No: HB0336

District No: 43

I support the repeal of legal provisions that allow JHU to establish a private police department because the University has not sufficiently communicated their responsibility to protect the greater Baltimore community. It is worrisome that officers granted detaining and searching powers may serve the private interests of the University more than the public interests of City residents. It is not clear how their policing plan will prevent criminal behavior rather than displacing it to other neighborhoods, nor how they would redirect offenders suffering from severe mental health crises or other desperate circumstances to helpful services. It is unclear how the City budget would be impacted if the proposed University department was responsible for a miscarriage of justice, or how the University may use its finances to greater insulate its department from legal scrutiny relative to other police districts. Finally, existing communication from the University has not been sufficiently transparent about these concerns or general accountability to earn trust.

As a graduate student at Hopkins, I do not trust the University to grant official police powers, and I support this bill to repeal any provisions that grant those powers.