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Ikechukwu Enenmoh
Baltimore, 21202

TESTIMONY ON SB#0758 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Baltimore City - Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Ikechukwu Enenmoh

OPENING: My name is Ikechukwu Enenmoh. I am a resident of District #12. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0758, Baltimore City - Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner.

I am currently a medical student in the city of Baltimore and have called this city home for the past 8 years now. During my time here as a student and resident of Baltimore city, I have had the pleasure of working closely with community organizations who have expressed time and time again why police accountability is so important to them and crucial to the health and well-being of their communities. In 2021, it became clear that policing was not only a social matter but a public health issue and a key social determinant of health, especially for communities of color. As a future doctor and healthcare provider, this issue matters deeply to me and even more to the patients I take care of now and will continue to for the remainder of my career. Just as importantly, it matters to the many people I call my neighbors in Baltimore City - where control of the Baltimore Police Department should naturally be locally seated.

Further:

- In November 2022, Baltimore residents overwhelmingly voted in favor of making the BPD a City agency once more. Of the more than 132,000 Baltimore residents who voted on Question H (the local control ballot measure), the vast majority - over 82% - favored it.
- For more than a decade, advocates have been working to give City Council legislative oversight of the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD).
- The federal consent decree that the city of Baltimore is under mandated the formation of a Civilian Oversight Task Force to make recommendations to strengthen police accountability and police-community relations. In their 2018 report, they said that "The BPD will never be fully accountable to its residents until full control of the department is

returned to the city.” They stress the importance of the City Council having legislative power and recommend that this change happen "with all deliberate speed."

In order to fully gain local accountability for our police department, the General Assembly **must** pass this bill to remove one line in the City Charter which prohibits the City Council from infringing on the power of the Police Commissioner. Baltimoreans have already waited too long and further delay would be unacceptable - The people’s will, clearly expressed in the last election, must be carried out immediately by passing SB0758, which will restore legislative authority to our City Council on June 1, 2023. This is an issue of accountability and an issue of public health. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0758.**