

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

My name is Arielle Juberg, and I am a resident of District 5. I **am testifying in support of SB 758 to Amend Baltimore City's Charter for Local Control of Police.** I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with our accountability partner, the Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs (CJSJ).



I believe that local residents should have a voice in local services. Baltimore City is still the *only* locality in Maryland and only one of two localities in the entire country that does not have control over its own police department. Local voices are desperately needed in order to enhance public safety. As someone who has lived, worked, and volunteered in Baltimore City, I believe that everyone should feel safe and welcome in Baltimore.

In 2021, the General Assembly passed legislation to reestablish BPD as a City agency provided that Baltimore residents ratify an amendment to the City Charter. In November 2022, Baltimore residents *overwhelmingly* voted in favor (82%) of a charter amendment to transfer control of the BPD from the State to Baltimore City.

However, Baltimore City still lacks local control - the General Assembly has to pass SB758/HB853 to remove one line in the City Charter which prohibits the City Council from infringing on the power of the Police Commissioner. Further delay of implementation of local control of the Baltimore Police Department is unacceptable, as it unjustly limits representative democracy and police accountability in a majority-Black city.

The will of Baltimore City voters, clearly expressed in the last election, must be carried out immediately by passing SB758/HB853. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **favorably on Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner SB758.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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