

February 27, 2024  
Briana Ciccarino  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**TESTIMONY ON HB732/SB894 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**TO:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Briana Ciccarino

My name is Briana Ciccarino and I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB732/SB894: Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner.

I proudly work, live, volunteer, attend church, and advocate in Baltimore City. I am a licensed social worker having obtained both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from institutions in Baltimore City.

Just one year ago I was door knocking with Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and CASA, talking to city residents about Baltimore City Local Control. As we door knocked our way through the Butcher’s Hill and Upper Fell’s Point neighborhoods, we heard over and over again how supportive neighbors are of local control. There were also people who were unaware and shocked to learn that local police control did not belong to the city. Overall, it was so energizing and reassuring to talk to so many people who believed in Baltimore City’s ability to have local control.

However, now over a year later, Baltimore still does not have local control despite 82% of Baltimore voters voting yes on Question H (the local control ballot measure) in 2022. It is frustrating that there are more hurdles to overcome and that the Baltimoreans who voted “yes” on Question H like myself, are left feeling like their work isn’t done. We’ve waited over 163 years for local control over BPD. We won’t wait one more. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB732/SB894 to allow the City Council - our local, elected legislators - to have the legislative authority to make changes to BPD policy.**

Briana Ciccarino  
Baltimore City, District 46 Resident