

My name is Garrett Patrick and I am a homeowner two blocks from the Johns Hopkins medical school campus. I've lived in Baltimore for six years and have been involved throughout the neighborhood, most recently serving on the board of the Patterson Park Neighborhood Association.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the House Bill 1284 eliminating the Johns Hopkins Police Department. Two years ago I attended each of the hearings on the initial bill, expressing the strong support of many of my neighbors. At that time, I brought testimony from a near unanimous group of my neighbors on the 200 block of N. Madeira street, as well as testimony from over 100 school of medicine students. As a diverse group of neighbors, we recognize the need for increased safety within our neighborhood.

We have been no strangers to the crime that plagues the surrounding area. We are by now too-used to the all-too-common incidences of muggings and assaults. In just the past year, a man broke into several houses and threatened neighbors who saw him. More egregiously, one of my neighbors, a Hopkins employee, had his house where he and his family including two young daughters live, firebombed by a repeat offender. This offender was seen around the area numerous times before escalating to this, but with overstretched police forces, he would evade capture when we would call the police. Having the additional presence of the Johns Hopkins police force to cover this area could have stopped this before the escalation.

Our block strongly believes in the effort of the JH police force to provide a community-driven and evidence-based police force that would provide a greater sense of safety to all of those in our neighborhood. We thank the committee for consideration.

Garrett Patrick