

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lester Spence, and I am currently one of the longest serving black faculty at the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University. I write in support of HB1284 and HB336. When Johns Hopkins administrators first proposed a private police force, black faculty argued against it privately (in meetings with President Ron Daniels) and publicly for four reasons. First, attempting to garner private police power in the wake of so many local, national, and international police scandals would further reduce the ability of the public to hold police accountable. Second, black faculty, staff, and students (and their children) would be made less rather than more safe by the presence of Hopkins police officers—below I paste the 2011 email one of my former students sent me after she witnessed a fellow Hopkins student call security on a black male student in the library for the innocuous “crime” of taking pictures with his phone. Third, it would exacerbate existing problems between Hopkins and the communities surrounding it. Fourth, the police force would do nothing to deal with the types of crimes that cause the most problems for Hopkins students—crimes between students.

We believe there are a range of policies that Hopkins administrators could pursue to promote safety and security, including for instance paying taxes to the City of Baltimore in lieu of providing services. Having a private police force is not one of them.

I wish I could deliver this testimony virtually but unfortunately I teach class during this time. Although I write for myself, every black tenured faculty member I know on the Homewood campus feels similarly. I urge you to support HB1284 and HB336. If you need more information, please contact me at 410-429-0557, or at unbowed@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lester Spence
Professor of Political Science
Johns Hopkins University

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> Hello all,

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> XXXX and I just witnessed an incident in the library and I felt that you could advise me

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JHU POLICE REPEAL BILL HB336/HB1284

how I can go about voicing my outrage.

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> We were studying on A level and there was a male Black student standing by the topographical maps. He seemed to be writing in a notebook while listening to music on his headphones. I admit it was a little strange but he didn't seem to be doing anything wrong. Next thing I noticed, everyone was staring because there was a library staff member and a Hopkins Police Officer questioning the boy. They were talking low and the boy gave the Police Officer his J-Card. The staff member left and came back with a sheet of paper while the Police Officer was looking through pictures in the boy's camera. Next, another Police Officer came downstairs followed by 2 more. After what seemed like 15-20 minutes, the confrontation seemed to be resolved with a handshake and the boy left. The first Police Officer and the library staff member then approached a female White student and I overheard her say to them "I'm so sorry for the trouble." Later, when she was talking to her friend at her table, she disclosed the fact that she "was creeped out by the boy and reported him to security." They were loudly talking about the situation and she also said that they told him he "couldn't take any pictures anywhere in the library and that he had to leave."

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> While I obviously don't know all the details of the situation, I feel that it was handled very unprofessionally. 5 authority figures did not seem necessary as the boy was not being loud and was complying to everything they asked of him. I don't think the girls uneasiness was justified because A level was crowded but I guess I understand her concern had to be addressed. I do feel, however, one Police Officer could have spoken to him in private rather than embarrassing him in public. I honestly think this is an act of racism on the parts of both the girl and the Police Officers. Since I can't prove this, I was hoping you could give me advice on what I can do. I am considering complaining about the way the situation was handled but I don't know how I could. I understand if the boy was doing something wrong, he should have been talked to. I just think they were completely inconsiderate! I have heard of things like this happening but this is the first time I have witnessed it.

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> Thank you in advance,

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