

I write as a physician, public health practitioner and alumni of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in opposing the institution's vested authority to establish a police force and supporting Senator Carter's bill to repeal this authority. It is clear from the wide-ranging and persistent community voices that a JHU police force is generally opposed in communities in and around Hopkins. It is also clear from public health evidence why a Johns Hopkins University police force would inflict worsening racialized trauma in the city of Baltimore.

Multiple neighborhood associations near Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus, including the Abell Improvement Association, the Greater Remington Improvement Association, and the Harwood Community Association, voted almost unanimously to oppose a Hopkins police force (<http://baltimorebeat.com/2019/03/21/the-winding-and-contested-path-to-a-johns-hopkins-police-force/>). The East Baltimore campus, where Hopkins police would initially patrol, has also seen organized resistance by neighborhoods like Douglass Homes and the Middle East (<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-baltimore-protest-saturday-20200613-zw2wes4w4vcankmjdrnrchj4km-story.html>). An overwhelming majority of faculty and students have consistently voiced their disapproval (<https://www.jhunewsletter.com/article/2019/04/sga-votes-in-opposition-of-hopkins-police-force>), with Hopkins professors most recently garnering nearly 6000 individual signatures and over forty organizational endorsements calling on university leadership to cancel its plans.

Johns Hopkins police will reliably continue the long American policing tradition of racialized trauma. Police killings take the lives of 1 in every 1000 Black men (<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>) and are the sixth leading cause of death for Black boys and men (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/police-killings-are-sixth-leading-cause-death-among-young-men-n1041526>). This physical threat is *inclusive* of campus police forces. While a lack of accountability and transparency make it difficult to obtain precise numbers, a growing number of people across the country have been killed or injured by university police (<https://www.vox.com/2015/7/29/9069841/university-of-cincinnati-police>). Maryland is no exception: in July 2013 Morgan State University officers were involved in the killing of Tyrone West, an unarmed Black man (<https://therealnews.com/stories/jnoor0502west>). In June 2015 there was a fatal shooting by a University of Maryland-Baltimore officer (<https://washington.cbslocal.com/2015/06/05/police-involved-shooting-near-camden-yards-roads-closed/>), another fatal shooting by a Coppin State University officer (<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-ci-coppin-shooting-video-20161216-story.html>) in December 2016 and, most recently, a non-fatal shooting by a Morgan State University officer (<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-ci-tgifridays-incident-20180112-story.html>) in January 2018. Historical experience shows the widest range of reforms has consistently failed to curb racialized police violence (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/opinion/sunday/floyd-abolish-defund-police.html>).

Policing, and specifically Johns Hopkins police force is also logically linked to a larger project of gentrification, a role of policing that is also supported in the literature. Launched in 2001, the East Baltimore Development Initiative (EBDI), led by Johns Hopkins, displaced 700 long-residing families from the medical campus area (<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/apr/18/gentrify-or-die-inside-a-universitys-controversial-plan-for-baltimore>). A community reinvestment fund that was promised to residents never materialized. The Hopkins private police force, slated for initial

deployment in East Baltimore, can readily be understood as part of a larger project of community displacement, *not* community development. Many studies demonstrate the key role of policing in the early stages of gentrification (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cico.12473>). According to Maryland Land Records, Hopkins owns several homes near its hospital and between the first police bill in 2018 and now the average home price in the area has risen three hundred percent. Finally, Johns Hopkins Hospital has filed over 2400 lawsuits primarily targeting poor, Black patients living in East Baltimore (<https://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-md-medical-debt-rally-hopkins-20190720-4j2ktmaymzh6npxfn2guopghj4-story.html>). In some cases, Johns Hopkins Hospital successfully garnished the wages of hundreds of financially insecure patients (<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-0522-lawsuit-johns-hopkins-poor-20190521-story.html>). Considering such hospital litigation in the context of EBDI and Hopkins property holdings, the private police is indeed part of a larger project to erase certain communities from near the university's predominantly white spaces.

I stand with a broad coalition of organizations, students, faculty and Baltimore residents in imploring the state legislature to expeditiously repeal Johns Hopkins authorization to establish an independent police force.