

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0336

I am resident of district 45, and also a medical student at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. I am writing today in enthusiastic support of HB0336, which would repeal provisions relating to the establishment and maintenance of a Johns Hopkins Police Department (JHPD).

Increasing police presence in the Middle East neighborhood, which is already heavily policed, does not make our community more safe, especially for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Disabled individuals who face a disproportionate burden of harm from policing practices. Across the US, police kill 3 people every day, and 1 in 1000 Black males are expected to die due to police violence.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition, negative experiences with the police contribute to long term anxiety and suicide attempts and/or suicidal ideation among young people.<sup>3</sup> This is a public health crisis. Participating in this by establishing a police force is not compatible with the stated goal of the institution to “improve the health of the community and the world.”<sup>4</sup>

There is a long history of justifiable mistrust between the Middle East community and Johns Hopkins. For example, a planned expansion in 2002 promised to bring thousands of jobs and revitalize the neighborhood; however, in reality, over 700 families were displaced and only a fraction of the promised jobs have been delivered. Listening to our community is essential. Over 6,000 community members have signed a petition opposing the plan to establish this police force. The community has spoken clearly—disregarding the voice of those who will be most impacted by this force will further erode trust. As a medical student, I have been taught and have seen first-hand the importance of building trust with our community and our patients. This will make the job of caring for patients harder and is again contrary to the goals of the institution. This unwillingness to listen also does not bode well for creating a police force that is accountable to Baltimore citizens.

If we hope to address the many health disparities we see today, we must focus not only on alleviating symptoms but on addressing root causes of injustice and inequity. The establishment of this police force is contrary to this goal, and should not be allowed. I strongly urge a favorable recommendation on HB0336.

Samuel Jordan  
Resident of Baltimore City District 45  
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2. Edwards F, Lee H, Esposito M. Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex. *PNAS*. 2019;116(34):16793-16798. doi:10.1073/pnas.1821204116
3. DeVlyder JE, Jun H-J, Fedina L, et al. Association of Exposure to Police Violence With Prevalence of Mental Health Symptoms Among Urban Residents in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2018;1(7):e184945. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.4945

4. Behr, Z. (n.d.). Mission, Vision and Values | Johns Hopkins Medicine. Retrieved February 10, 2021, from <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/about/mission.html>