

2/19/21

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your time. My name is Suzanne Doogan. I am an educator from District 43. I urge you to support HB1284 to repeal the police authority of Johns Hopkins University. I have lived and worked as an educator in Baltimore City for the past nine years. I completed my teaching internship as a Johns Hopkins masters student at the Henderson-Hopkins school in the Middle East, the area in which JHPD would first be deployed.

This **is** a Baltimore City issue. I demand that private police authority be repealed for the health and well-being of the children I work with, for their families, for the safety of University unaffiliated community members, and for the good of students, faculty, and workers on campuses, especially those who are Black and Brown. You see highlighted now with its Covid-spreading reopening plans, that Johns Hopkins administration is expert at doing whatever is in *its* interest, which is often at odds with the good of the communities in which it is situated. Maryland residents are counting on **you** to do your jobs as elected officials and represent the interests of your constituents, rather than those of already-super-powerful private institutions. It is telling that three out of four individuals who testified *against* repealing JHUPD authority last month have been financially linked to Hopkins.

The Middle East neighborhood that Hopkins plans to initially police is already heavily populated by Baltimore officers, and patrolled by Hopkins security. When I commuted to the neighborhood, I saw how militarized the presence of Johns Hopkins security officers already was near the medical campus, which conflicted with heart-warming stories from Hopkins brochures about collaboration and community-building between the institution and the community at large. Institutional brochures don't highlight Hopkins's work with the East Baltimore Development Initiative to displace over 700 families from their homes in 2002, continuous closed-door meetings, and a history of nonconsensual medical testing. During my walks, I didn't see many neighbors out and about or exchanging greetings not because of a lack of connections and strong bonds, but because the neighborhood itself had been destabilized by Hopkins's actions. And stability cannot be restored by Hopkins's efforts to now exert more control, through policing.

And the militarized climate that Hopkins fostered extended beyond the streets. When I entered the Henderson-Hopkins school building each day, I was greeted by tight security and an extremely sterile atmosphere -- one that failed to offer children a place to find their voices or make choices as growing people. Similarly, the voices and choices of those most affected were neglected in Hopkins's plans for a private police force that will disproportionately affect the Middle East's long-time residents -- many of the families whose children I worked with. Families who had been promised 8,000 new jobs and a community reinvestment fund in 2002, and are still waiting.

Now it is up to **you** to do right by the people of Maryland, your constituents and neighbors, by repealing the private police authority of Johns Hopkins University.

Best,

Suzanne Doogan