

Against Johns Hopkins Private Police force

Does Johns Hopkins need a private police force? We have been given **no** arguments in the affirmative. Rather, we have just been told this by interested parties without any explanation for what has changed and why such that Johns Hopkins needs a private police *now* although they never before have needed such a thing before. Perhaps something has changed, but again, we the public have been given no such arguments.

Policing in Baltimore is in a precarious state. There is no trust between the city and those sworn to protect it. Homicides have spiraled out of control for over five years now. Rhetoric about the "thin blue line" only further divides the citizenry, as though the police were separate from the rest of us and above us. At a time like this, every effort must be made to create a police department which works for and with Baltimoreans as Baltimoreans. Reducing public accountability and replacing it with allegiance to private parties is the exact wrong direction for the city. It will only increase mistrust and increase divisions. The completely opaque and irresponsible way that private policing have been sold to the legislature shows that this problem will only get worse if Johns Hopkins is allowed to opt out of the city police. We must repeal the private police force now before it is too late.

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