

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB:1284

I am submitting this testimony to urge you to SUPPORT HB:1284. Hopkins should not be allowed to have a private police force that includes armed police officers with arresting powers and protection under LEOBR.

I am a community member with no connection to the private institution of Johns Hopkins. Hopkins university is 1 block from my home so security is in/walks through my neighborhood. Hopkins, a private institution, should not be allowed to have an armed police force. As a resident of Baltimore City, I should not have a private, elite institution respond to 911 calls. There are two neighborhood associations in my community. Both are against Hopkins having a private police force. The private police force's main purposes will be to defend, at all costs and in all ways, Hopkins as an institution, to continue its forced migration of the residents of the Middle East community by Hopkins hospital and to please wealthy parents/guardians of students. None of which are a way to help the community or decrease crime. One option is Hopkins can spend part of the money instead on providing housing to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or having housing instability.

Having to interact with Hopkins security now is horrible so giving Hopkins a private police force with more power is going to be even worse. Hopkins security already hires BPD officers even though Hopkins uses BPD's lack of competence as a reason to justify the use of a private police force. Students and faculty have shown their opposition to the private police force by having a 35 day sit-in, a faculty letter in opposition to the private police force and signed petitions. Baltimore City is already over policed by a police force that is corrupt and able to do whatever it wants. The city does not need another police force that will do whatever it wants. As a Baltimore City resident I do not need Hopkins private police responding to an emergency for me or my home. Hopkins had a Title IX investigation for failure to respond to sexual assaults. When I contacted multiple employees of the university or security office none knew of any changes in response to the investigation. Hopkins will coverup anything that makes the elite private institution look bad. Hopkins continues to have issues with its security officers and how they interact with the community. Hopkins continues to not investigate when there are concerns with a situation involving security. Hopkins private police will harm the community that is supposedly there to protect. Hopkins students, faculty and staff along with community members from the neighborhoods surrounding Hopkins campuses are in opposition to Hopkins private police force. Listen to the people. If top leadership is unable to listen to the people what will a private police force do.

Hopkins does not need a private police force. I urge you to SUPPORT HB:1284.

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