

February 5, 2021

RE: Opposition to S.B. 276 – Repeal of Johns Hopkins Police Department

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 276, the bill that would repeal the Johns Hopkins Police Department.

I have lived in Baltimore City for a good portion of my life. Some of my family members and I are current residents and property owners in Baltimore. I have also worked in the city for the past 6 years. Fortunately, I have lived in other cities and I've worked in the District of Columbia for over 20 years. Residing and working in Baltimore provides an opportunity to see the good and bad, of the area first hand. I have undergraduate and graduate degrees, and work experience in the fields of Psychology and Sociology, which provides me with an informed and broad perspective. Although the city has experienced new development in business and residential real estate, there continues to be a strong subculture of lack, miseducation, illegal narcotics sales and turf wars. Unfortunately, the later leads to violent and petty crime. The Johns Hopkins Police Department will be a welcomed and needed addition to the areas that it will have authority over. I fully support the development of the Johns Hopkins Police Department.

I do **not** agree with SB 276.

The neighborhood that I was reared in, and now own property in, has a mix of longtime residents and transplants. In spite of the successful sales of fully gutted/refurbished row houses, the area continues to be a haven for illegal drug sales and loitering. Unfortunately, I have witnessed several drug bust on various houses and small businesses. In fact, just a few months ago, I witnessed young men patronizing a small business (allegedly) carrying several firearms. In addition, there are consistent reports of shootings, stabbings and porch pirating. A progressive and accountable (Johns Hopkins) police department would help would greatly help with safety.

I support The Johns Hopkins Police Department, because I, along with my family, need to be and feel safe, in the environment that we personally have invested in financially for over three generations. My daughters (along with other children) need to grow up in an environment that is safe and thriving. Having a police department in East and Central Baltimore will help a great deal.

I strongly urge this committee to vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,

Chrystal A. Green, M.Ed.
Mother of three
Homeowner
East Baltimore Resident