

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

To: Costello, Eric (City Council)
Subject: RE:

From: Costello, Eric (City Council) <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Charlie Cooper <charlie.coop47@gmail.com>; Middleton, Sharon (City Council) <Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov>; Mosby, Nick (City Council) <Nick.Mosby@baltimorecity.gov>; Scott, Brandon (Mayor) <Brandon.Scott@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President <CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council) <Kristerfer.Burnett@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: ralikh@organizingblack.org; michaela@organizingblack.org; Currin, Marguerite (City Council) <Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: RE:

Marguerite, please ensure the testimony below is added to the bill file. Thanks, EC

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From: Charlie Cooper <charlie.coop47@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:36 PM
To: Middleton, Sharon (City Council) <Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov>; Mosby, Nick (City Council) <Nick.Mosby@baltimorecity.gov>; Scott, Brandon (Mayor) <Brandon.Scott@baltimorecity.gov>; Costello, Eric (City Council) <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President <CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council) <Kristerfer.Burnett@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: ralikh@organizingblack.org; michaela@organizingblack.org
Subject:

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**Testimony on Taxpayer Night
May 26, 2022**

**Joan and Charlie Cooper
2359 Nutmeg Terrace 21209**

We've been residents of the City since 1969 and 1970, respectively, and homeowners since 1973. We're writing to object to further increases in the Police budget. The fate of our children matters very much to us. We want the City to become a place where all children have a chance to be safe and healthy, to learn, and to play. We are very far from this goal, and conditions in many neighborhoods seem to be worsening.

Last year, we budgeted about \$555 million for the Police Department, and this year more is called for. This, despite the actions of City Council two years ago to legislate for decreases in the then Mayor's budget to about \$500 million.

When we do a Google search for "Which city spends the most on police?" the answer is Baltimore. In fiscal 2023, we will be just a few dollars shy of spending \$1,000 per resident. Yet murders keep rising, morale keeps falling, and residents keep leaving.

We can only conclude that better education and improved social and mental health programs would be more fruitful than plowing more money into law enforcement. We tired of reading about overtime abuse, police corruption, and incidents of brutality. We strongly believe we can do better with a different approach.