

From: Jen Blalock <jenrblalock@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 4:48 PM
To: Conway, Mark (City Council) <Mark.Conway@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Testimony- Baltimore City Police Accountability

Good afternoon,

I am now a Baltimore County resident, however I lived in the city for years. I am a registered nurse that practiced at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center for 13 years, so I hope my words will carry some weight, in consideration of my service to the city and state.

As nurses, we do not have the option of covering up our identities as we carry out potentially uncomfortable or painful procedures, often as people arrive in various stages of crisis, physical and mental. We are a population of workers that face violence in our daily work. It is unacceptable to me that the city would allow for ICE agents to cover up their faces as they take people off the streets. Despite obvious measures of success in reduction of violence, largely in part due to community efforts, the actions Baltimore City takes in how it handles ICE agents today will directly affect the city's ability to reduce violence. Any cooperation with ICE will ultimately sever public trust, and communities may start to respond in violent ways, concerningly referenced by one testimony today. If the city does not take steps to both enforce a ban on masks (at the bare minimum), and put enforcement measures on that ban, I am concerned that the city may start to see a reversal of violence reduction, which would put an ever-increasing burden on city-wide services. Handling this directly now will save the city money in the long run- I am hopeful that outside of the conversation of public trust in institutions, the budgetary concerns for the what ifs would motivate the Council to address these issues quickly.

Thank you.

Jennifer Blalock
Indivisible Baltimore County, Steering Committee