November 29, 2023
Briana Ciccarino
Mount Vernon

 TESTIMONY ON #23-0445 Charter Amendment- Baltimore City Police Department

TO: Council President Mosby, Vice President Middleton, and members of the Council

FROM: Briana Ciccarino

My name is Briana Ciccarino and I am a resident of District 12. I am submitting this testimony on LO23-0445: Charter Amendment- Baltimore City Police Department.I proudly work, live, volunteer, attend church, and advocate in Baltimore City. I am a licensed social worker having obtained both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from institutions in Baltimore City.

Just one year ago I was door knocking with Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and CASA de Maryland, talking to city residents about Baltimore City Local Control. As we door knocked our way through the Butcher's Hill and Upper Fell's Point neighborhoods, we heard over and over again how supportive neighbors are of local control. There were also people who were unaware and shocked to learn that local police control did not belong to the city. Overall, it was so energizing and reassuring to talk to so many people who believed in Baltimore City's ability to have local control.

However, now over a year later, Baltimore still does not have local control despite 82% of Baltimore voters voting yes on Question H (the local control ballot measure) in 2022. It is frustrating that there are more hurdles to overcome and that the Baltimoreans who voted "yes" on Question H, are left feeling like their work isn't done. We've waited over 163 years for local control over BPD. We won't wait one more. We're calling on our elected leaders to support Councilman Mark Conway's bills, #23-0445 and #23-0449 for local control.

We want the City Council–our local, elected legislators– to have legislative authority to make changes to BPD policy. The Baltimore City Council must finish what we started and expeditiously pass #23-0445 to fulfill the will of the people and codify local control of the BPD.

Briana Ciccarino
Baltimore City, District 12 Resident