

November 29, 2023
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF #23-0445
Charter Amendment- Baltimore City Police Department

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

FROM: Jo-Ann Orlinsky

I write in support of Councilman Conway's two bills regarding local control of the Baltimore City Police Department– #23-0445 and #23-0449.

As a community activist in Baltimore City for more than 60 years, I believe it is time to put the issue of local control to rest. The public overwhelmingly has voiced its approval of returning control of the Baltimore City Police Department to the city in the referendum of 2022. The voting public is tired of being shuttled between the legislature and the Mayor and Council. It is time to stop playing Keystone cops and get it right and put it to rest. Let's get it on the ballot (again) and get it finished.

My thanks to Councilman Conway for trying to settle this issue. I support #23-0445 and #23-0049 and urge the Council to pass these bills with no further delay.