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Public Health & Environment Committee
Councilwoman Phylicia Porter, Chair
Councilman Mark Conway, Vice-Chair
100 N. Holliday St
Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

To Whom It May Concern,

This isn't just a hearing.

This is a eulogy for every life that was lost while help was locked behind red tape, privilege, and politics.

We are the ones who held cold hands until they turned colder.

We are the ones who heard the last breath of someone we loved while city-funded programs sat idle, while harm reduction passed out clean needles and called it a solution.

We are the ones who carry grief on our backs like coffins with no pallbearers because no one shows up when you bury the poor.

You say this hearing is about oversight.

Then let's oversee the truth.

Pennsylvania Avenue was a war zone that no one evacuated.

A public safety crisis that the city watched from behind the glass of gentrified offices and strategic plans.

A battlefield where 27 people nearly died in one day and the same lazy, underperforming programs acted surprised as if they weren't already funded to prevent this exact outcome.

You sued for \$400 million in the name of the communities most impacted.

But you left those same communities outside when it came time to divide the pot.

How dare you sit in padded chairs while we sit in funeral homes picking out urns and some urns will never be picked up for various reasons.

We have buried fathers, brothers, children, and then been told we were too angry to be included in the solution.

We have been called emotional when we begged for change, as if the numbness you prefer is more productive than our pain.

We do not want symbolism. We want justice.

We want investment in healing, not just harm management.

We want real treatment, not alleyway mercy missions.

We want housing with dignity, jobs with purpose, and spaces for recovery that feel like home not holding cells.

And we want names.

Names of every organization that took money in our name and did *nothing*.
We want receipts.

We want accountability.

And we want it now before another child grows up without a parent, another mother buries her son, and another overdose is shrugged off like a bad date.
This isn't just policy.

This is personal.

This is holy ground soaked in the blood of the neglected.

And if the heavens aren't already weeping, they will when they hear what Baltimore has done to its own.

So let the record show:

The people most harmed are still here.

Still watching.

Still fighting.

And we will not be quiet just because it makes you uncomfortable.

You owe us more than words.

You owe us a resurrection.

We are People Empowered By The Struggle, and we're not asking for a seat at the table.

We're bringing our own folding chairs and have a list of receipts.

And I know that organizations like us will never see funding because we are what integrity looks like.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Pulley

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