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Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 3:43 PM
To: Conway, Mark (City Council) <Mark.Conway@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Zeke (City Council) <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Testimony for police accountability hearing

Hi Councilperson Conway,

Below is the [...] testimony that I gave to the committee today. If you have any questions or would like to speak further please let me know.

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I am hoping today that having this hearing is an acknowledgment of a problem. that the City Council and Mayor will start taking their own measures to resolve the ongoing issue of holding police accountable for misconduct and corruption. Police accountability can be a way to bring some form of reckoning for those that have been harmed by this misconduct and it can also be a deterrent to those officers that are more susceptible to harming the community with their actions. Unfortunately, even with local control and state intervention in cases of in-custody deaths the police still have too much of their hands in the mix. In fact, after the killing of Bilal Abdullah members of the police were out in the community collecting information from residents the next day. Otherwise, police policing themselves will never work. This is the biggest impediment to residents getting accountability and why further harm will continue from the police against residents. The Police Accountability Board must have independent investigatory powers and the money to do that effectively. Although I believe having a consent decree monitoring team has been some form of deterrent now that the city finally has local control, measures/policies need to be put in place to help these officers understand that misconduct will not go unpunished.

Here are some suggestions for policy/procedure:

- Form a committee on the Council that hears a sampling of community complaints to hear what residents are experiencing in the community.
- The City's Legal Team should be empowered to work with the State's Attorney to bring charges and prosecute officer's who commit serious misconduct. In order to do this they should no longer represent BPD but instead sit across THE BARGAINING table from the FOP.
- When an officer receives a certain number of citizen complaints they should have to go in front of a board that will have the power to enforce appropriate consequences.
- The Council should form a contractual agreement with the Baltimore Action Legal Team to do independent audits of the police.