

I am a concerned Baltimore citizen who has lived in this wonderful city for ten years. What makes this city unique is its people. We lift each other up. We help our neighbors. We identify with each other and we celebrate each other. We see each other, regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality, or ethnicity. And I'm not even a native Baltimorean, so being accepted in this community means so very much to me.

What I do not see enough of in this city is these immense institutions being our neighbors as well. They possess so much real estate, so much wealth, so much of Baltimore, but what are they giving back? Mere pennies.

CB 25-0036 is an opportunity for these wealthy institutions to show us, the people who work in your offices, the people who pay your tuition, the people who keep YOUR lights on, that you are here and you will support them. How is it possible that my neighbors and I can pay the lion's share of taxes to support this beautiful city, even on the lowest of incomes, even in the harshest of circumstances, but organizations like Hopkins, Medstar, Loyola, can rake in millions, and only give a mere fraction of it back to this city, this community, that keeps their engines running. Why must we see beautiful buildings be raised up on MLK Jr Blvd in mere months for institutions like the University of Maryland, but walk ten feet out their doors and trip on an enormous pothole?

If you as an organization wish to take from this city, whether it's our land for your offices, our power to keep your lights on, or our working class to continue being your dependable employees, the very least you can do is be a neighbor to us in our beautiful city. That means doing what all we Baltimoreans already do, which is give back and support each other. CB 25-0036 is Baltimore's opportunity to have everyone at the table so we can lift this city up...together.