

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Doug Greenberg <doug.greenberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 10:50 AM  
**To:** Bernard C Jack Young; City Council President; Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Henry, Bill (email); McCray, Danielle (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council)  
**Cc:** Cohen, Zeke (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the Police

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Dear Mayor Young, Council President Scott, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am a citizen of Baltimore and live at 3414 O'Donnell Street. I am writing to urge you to defund the police department and to reallocate those resources for human services in our city. The need of Baltimore to deal with the broad range of human problems that cause violence and crime is much greater than its need to have more police officers (among the highest per capita number of any city in the US) with more guns.

Defunding the police can free millions of dollars to address our truly desperate need for improvements in housing, health, education, and harm reduction. A focus on the needs of our communities will do more to reduce crime than displays of force and armed harassment of citizens. Recent events in Minneapolis may highlight centuries-long malevolence of white supremacy, but we Baltimoreans should need no reminder when the events surrounding the death of Freddie Gray in 2015 are still fresh in our minds.

Reforming police practices is not a solution to the problems our city faces. Disbanding the police force and starting over is.

When you meet this evening to consider the police department's budget, I urge you and your colleagues to take the lead in radically adjusting your expenditure of our tax dollars to ameliorate the pain that racism inflicts rather than continuing to reinforce racism by inflicting more pain in a city whose pain is already beyond imagining.

Douglas Greenberg  
3414 O'Donnell Street

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** elaine0434@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elaine Millas <elaine0434@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** No Funding For BPD

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

Please see the message below, and ensure that it is submitted as a public testimony on the 2021 BPD Budget Hearing:

I am writing as a member of Jews United for Justice to ask that you vote against the proposal to increase the Baltimore Police Department's budget. While I understand that City Council does not have the authority to re-allocate costs, it is fully within your power to cut funding.

The BPD should not receive more funding, especially at a time when it is clear that they do not protect Baltimore residents equally and other critical services are seeing cuts in funding.

Jews United for Justice supports the demands of Organizing Black and other partners in the Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs (CJSJ), and will continue to fight alongside them for the changes that must be made to root out racist, violent, and corrupt police practices and invest in meeting the basic needs of the people of our city.

Sincerely,

Elaine Millas

2704 Guilford Ave Baltimore, MD 21218-4415 elaine0434@gmail.com

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Emary Parisi <eparisi@mica.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony -- Budget Concerns

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Hello,

My name is Emary Parisi, I am a resident of Baltimore City.

I am emailing you with demands for the budget proposal.

- 1 - An immediate divestment from the Baltimore Police Department.
- 2 - 50% of BPDs 2020 operating budget will be invested into Baltimore's Black Communities.
- 3 - The immediate abolishment of LEOBOR
- 4 - The city of Baltimore gains control of the Baltimore Police Department.

Thank you,  
Emary

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Emil Sandoz-Rosado <esandoz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** City Council President  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for BPD budget  
**Attachments:** BPD budget written testimony Emil Sandoz-Rosado.docx

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Mrs. Currin,

This is my written testimony as a resident of Baltimore City for consideration of the annual budget, specifically advocating the substantial defunding of Baltimore Police Department.

What I have written below is also attached as a document in this email. The summary of my argument is that Baltimore City could cut BPD budget by \$153 million and Baltimore would still rank first amongst all municipalities nationally in per-capita spending on its police department, despite BPD having an abysmal murder clearance rate, an active consent decree by the Department of Justice for civil rights violations, and a marred image from the gun trace task force.

Re: Written testimony for the budget of Baltimore Police Department

Emil Sandoz-Rosado  
2407 Madison Ave, Apt 1  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask that the council substantially defund Baltimore Police Department and demand that the Mayor reallocate the funds to underserved communities in Baltimore. Baltimore ranks first in the nation for per capita police budget for cities with populations above 500,000 residents, and we are first by a massive margin.

A 2017 Forbes article shows Baltimore City's police budget total is fifth overall in the United States [1], despite Baltimore City's population being the thirtieth-largest. When those 2017 municipal police budgets are ranked per capita, Baltimore City is in first place. The margin by which Baltimore City holds that unenviable title is truly alarming: **if we cut the Baltimore City Police Department budget by 30%, we would still be number one in per capita police spending nationally.**

[1] <https://www.forbes.com/.../how-much-do-u-s-cities-spend-eve.../...>

That 30% cut amounts to \$153 million per year based on the 2019 BPD budget, and that savings figure does not include the additional \$48.5 million in overtime [2] Baltimore City Police charged in questionable and poorly-overseen billing practices [3] in 2019, or the over \$1 million a year Baltimore City pays in police brutality settlements [4]. Baltimore City must redirect those funds, in total over \$200 million annually, to underserved and vulnerable communities and still be first in the country in per capita police spending.

[2] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-police-overtime-201...>

[3] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-police-overtime-202...>

[4] <https://data.baltimoresun.com/news/police-settlements/>

What could Baltimore do to improve if the city had an extra \$200 million dollars a year to spend? With an additional \$200 million annual budget it would take less than two years to accumulate the estimated \$350 million it would take to end homelessness in the city [5], or that additional budget could be used to extend pre-k to cover kids as young as three years old who are far under the poverty line [6].

[5] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-pugh-homeless-plan-...>

[6] <https://wamu.org/.../maryland-is-set-to-expand-free-pre-k-bu.../>

The spotlight on police brutality brought on by the Black Lives Matter movement has also drawn scrutiny to bloated police budgets. In response to the protests that have broken out after the death of George Floyd, Los Angeles is cutting up to \$150 million from their police department budget [7] and directing that funding to its own black community. The decision for a city to dramatically slash its own police budget is neither unprecedented, nor radical. In 2013 Camden, New Jersey, while it had the highest murder rate per capita and was known widely as the ‘murder capital’ of the United States, decided to disband its own police department and form a new one while slashing the budget nearly in half [8]. One year after Camden reformed its police department with half the budget, crime in the city had dropped [8]. The decrease in crime continued after Camden’s police department was reformed, and five years later the murder rate in Camden had dropped to a level not seen since 1987, with the decrease in murder rate being attributed directly to the shrinking and restructuring of the police department [9].

[7] <https://deadline.com/.../los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-cit.../>

[8] <https://secure->

[web.cisco.com/1TqVzoehx4XwhNI7ODCA0yua0hbncUPvWge1jPGTcAJAiFuBPhip3TiKZyDJi2q7emoiLdcNqOe9IGPpnKPVpva8GzLaX6ZN8xgJhgM7nqXecq\\_46ggjrb33Qx18MxHalFLLm8bcfDF5SpDVj\\_ZYUmnO11nKDnfxd4y-](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1TqVzoehx4XwhNI7ODCA0yua0hbncUPvWge1jPGTcAJAiFuBPhip3TiKZyDJi2q7emoiLdcNqOe9IGPpnKPVpva8GzLaX6ZN8xgJhgM7nqXecq_46ggjrb33Qx18MxHalFLLm8bcfDF5SpDVj_ZYUmnO11nKDnfxd4y-)

[FhhbwYV9fw5iCoVHv1McVu6vi3Uw06bjkQmClQi4UpSX7pUznNKrJbZdFRuViVQrOLWE8skV4\\_7hONm7GCAvvVN-ZdqqBofPqENs-fddEZugqILL\\_CNvk\\_-sljIQ-PNXezWDkcXcEcIFDR\\_T5QShUYZ3-sDkFssBdSflw2FkZej\\_Ojwprn3N0z9xHch8apzDuWRmP5ngqoBBWv3\\_8YMpr1Y6SzihsYq0VSYNjwbAdzUwu3XQkPibX77qj9gM\\_SjRK0vJVOJw/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governing.com%2F.../gov-camden-disbands-police-forc...](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1TqVzoehx4XwhNI7ODCA0yua0hbncUPvWge1jPGTcAJAiFuBPhip3TiKZyDJi2q7emoiLdcNqOe9IGPpnKPVpva8GzLaX6ZN8xgJhgM7nqXecq_46ggjrb33Qx18MxHalFLLm8bcfDF5SpDVj_ZYUmnO11nKDnfxd4y-FhhbwYV9fw5iCoVHv1McVu6vi3Uw06bjkQmClQi4UpSX7pUznNKrJbZdFRuViVQrOLWE8skV4_7hONm7GCAvvVN-ZdqqBofPqENs-fddEZugqILL_CNvk_-sljIQ-PNXezWDkcXcEcIFDR_T5QShUYZ3-sDkFssBdSflw2FkZej_Ojwprn3N0z9xHch8apzDuWRmP5ngqoBBWv3_8YMpr1Y6SzihsYq0VSYNjwbAdzUwu3XQkPibX77qj9gM_SjRK0vJVOJw/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governing.com%2F.../gov-camden-disbands-police-forc...)

[9] <https://www.citylab.com/.../what-happened-to-crime-in.../549542/>

From [9]:

‘But on New Year’s 2018, just 22 candles were lit: The city’s murder rate fell to its lowest since 1987. The number of annual killings has been in decline since 2012; so have robberies, aggravated assaults, violent crimes, property crimes, and non-fatal shooting incidents.

So what’s happening in this city, which for many years has been deemed among the dangerous in America? Thomson, who took the helm of the Camden police force in 2008, says the biggest factor may have been the change in structure of the department itself. In 2013, the Camden Police Department was disbanded, reimagined, and born again as the Camden County Police Department, with fewer officers, lower pay—and a strategic shift toward “community policing.”’

Baltimore City has observed an inverse spending-crime relationship to Camden’s, with an increasing police budget bringing no accompanying decrease in crime [10]. In fact, BPD’s performance has decreased as its budget has swelled. If Baltimore City’s murder rate is its most visible crime metric, then BPD’s murder clearance rate should be the most visible performance metric, and it is abysmal. BPD’s murder clearance rate in 2019 was 32%, far below the 57% national average for cities with populations above 500,000 residents, and BPD’s lowest murder clearance rate in three decades [11]. In 2010, when BPD’s budget was 32% lower than it was in 2019, BPD’s murder clearance rate was 56%, on par with the national average [11].

[10] <https://marketurbanismreport.com/.../in-baltimore-more-police...>

[11] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-crime-policy-201912...>

All of these quantitative reasons to defund the Baltimore police department pale in comparison to the moral and humanitarian reasons. We should not have to consider the numbers when Freddie Gray died while in BPD custody which at best could be called gross negligence and disregard for human life and dignity. We should not have to consider the numbers when BPD had such egregious civil rights violations that the Department of Justice had to step in and establish a consent decree which is still being enacted [12]. We should not have to consider the numbers when a profoundly corrupt and violent police gun trace task force terrorized the citizens they were sworn to protect, and were decorated by a city that has lost all ability to hold the worst elements of its police department accountable [13], with city oversight impossible due to BPD's status as a state agency [14]. But here we are, considering numbers, and numbers don't lie.

[12] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-consent-decree-expl...>

[13] <https://www.vox.com/.../.../baltimore-gun-trace-task-force-trial>

[14] <https://www.abell.org/.../baltimore-police-department-underst...>

It is time to find a better use for our money- to use it to truly provide for Baltimore City's underserved.

Regards,

-Emil Sandoz-Rosado

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Emilie Cleveland <cleveland.emilie99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 1:48 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** Bernard C Jack Young; Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Henry, Bill (email); McCray, Danielle (City Council); City Council President; Cohen, Zeke (City Council); Dorsey, Ryan (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council)  
**Subject:** Baltimore City Expense Budget Reform

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Dear Mayor Young,

My name is Emilie Cleveland. In the midst of a pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is inappropriate to propose increases to the Baltimore Police Department budget. I urge you to reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget, divest interest in the BPD, and invest in social services and education programs, effective for FY 2021.

Investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Safe Streets Baltimore, the Office of Employment and Development, or the Department of Health will have a measurable and lasting impact on public health and safety. This needs to happen to help the people of Baltimore!

Best,  
Emilie Cleveland

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** emilysarahfrost@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emily Frost  
<emilysarahfrost@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Public comment on BPD budget

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

Please see the message below, and ensure that it is submitted as a public testimony on the 2021 BPD Budget Hearing:

I am writing to ask that you vote against the proposal to increase the Baltimore Police Department's budget. While I understand that City Council does not have the authority to re-allocate costs, it is fully within your power to cut funding.

The BPD should not receive more funding, especially at a time when it is clear that they do not protect Baltimore residents equally and other critical services are seeing cuts in funding.

Sincerely,  
Emily Frost  
300 N Charles St Apt 308 Baltimore, MD 21201-4335 emilysarahfrost@gmail.com



**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Emily Norris <emilyenorris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:19 PM  
**Cc:** Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council)  
**Subject:** Reduce BPD Budget

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Hello,

I call on the Baltimore City Council to vote against the proposed FY 2020-21 Baltimore Police Department budget and instead work to implement significant and permanent reductions to this department. These funds should be routed toward the development of harm reduction systems that do not terrorize our neighbors and communities. The proposed BPD FY21 Budget is \$549,959,519. This is an increase of \$13,583,042 compared to FY20. The Budget also calls for cuts to several departments that better serve the public, including: Affordable Housing (-\$3,535,819) Housing and Community Development (-\$227,023) Homeless Prevention and Support Services for the Homeless (-\$641,270) Outreach to the homeless (-\$1,971,541) Enoch Pratt Free Library (-\$350,000) Youth and Trauma Services (-\$10,749) Board of Elections (-\$190,470) Environmental Inspection Services (-\$50,243) Chronic Disease Prevention (-\$252,906) Park programs and events (-\$122,912) Public right of way cleaning (-\$686,806) Events Art Culture and Films (-\$442,488) I call on the City Council to reduce the BPD budget increase of \$13.5 million and allocate it to the above departments.

Sincerely, Emily

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Emily Norris

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Ennis Barbery Smith <ennis.barbery@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony - FY21 proposed Baltimore City Budget - Police

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Dear Baltimore City Council,

Thank you for accepting this written testimony.

As a citizen of Baltimore, living in Bolton Hill, I would like to express my concerns over the inordinate amount of funding that the Baltimore City Police Department receives each year.

**I request that you decrease this funding to the Baltimore City Police and reinvest it in other social services and in education. I know that you are typically not allowed to increase funding for departments at this point in the process, but I would encourage you to change this policy or seek a waiver for it, if possible, so that the funding can be reallocated.**

I often do not feel comfortable calling the police in Baltimore City, as I fear they are often not trained to handle situations without using force, especially in interactions with Black citizens of Baltimore. There is a history of this, as you are aware.

I would like to see individual police officers paid more and to ensure that they have increased opportunities for anti-racism and de-escalation training. The parts of the police budget that I ask you to de-fund are related to tactical equipment that I feel is unnecessary and potentially harmful in interactions with Baltimore City citizens.

Thank you for reading this testimony and considering it carefully.

Ennis Smith

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** erinbwmn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Erin Bowman  
<erinbwmn@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** We need to cut funding to BPD \*now\* (public comment)

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

Please see the message below, and ensure that it is submitted as a public testimony on the 2021 BPD Budget Hearing:

I am writing as a Baltimore resident to ask that you significantly decrease the budget for the Baltimore Police Department and increase funding for vital, life-giving services for the people of our city - especially Black residents.

The BPD should not receive more funding, especially at a time when it is clear that they do not protect Baltimore residents equally. Instead, more funding should go towards departments we really need, such as education, housing & community development, and health.

I have been a resident of Baltimore City for 14 years and recently bought my first home here. I am proud to call Baltimore home, AND my top priority as a resident and tax-payer in this city is abolishing the Baltimore City Police Department. I am completing my post-grad education at University of Baltimore studying counseling psychology, and in my professional experiences thus far, the police cause far more harm and violence than they help prevent. Prior to going back to school, I worked in non-profits for about 10 years. I experienced how underfunded agencies are that actually support people, and how the status quo is doing nothing to help the people of Baltimore. We need institutional change. Look around the country. The time is now. There is political will across the city for this change. We need our elected officials to stand up and fight for the change that we know is right.

Sincerely,  
Erin Bowman  
3016 Overland Ave Baltimore, MD 21214-3312 erinbwmn@gmail.com

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Erin Todd <erin.b.todd@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 9:40 PM  
**Subject:** BPD budget

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Hello,

I call on the Baltimore City Council to vote against the proposed FY 2020-21 Baltimore Police Department budget and instead work to implement significant and permanent reductions to this department. These funds should be routed toward the development of harm reduction systems that do not terrorize our neighbors and communities.

The proposed BPD FY21 Budget is \$549,959,519. This is an increase of \$13,583,042 compared to FY20. The Budget also calls for cuts to several departments that better serve the public, including:

Affordable Housing (-\$3,535,819)

Housing and Community Development (-\$227,023) Homeless Prevention and Support Services for the Homeless (-\$641,270) Outreach to the homeless (-\$1,971,541) Enoch Pratt Free Library (-\$350,000) Youth and Trauma Services (-\$10,749) Board of Elections (-\$190,470) Environmental Inspection Services (-\$50,243) Chronic Disease Prevention (-\$252,906) Park programs and events (-\$122,912) Public right of way cleaning (-\$686,806) Events Art Culture and Films (-\$442,488) I call on the City Council to cancel the BPD budget increase of \$13.5 million and allocate it to the above departments.

Sincerely,  
Erin Todd

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Ese Bowry <esebowry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 6:46 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** Bernard C Jack Young; Clarke, MaryPat (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Henry, Bill (email); McCray, Danielle (City Council); City Council President; Cohen, Zeke (City Council); Dorsey, Ryan (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council)  
**Subject:** Baltimore City Expense Budget Reform

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Dear Mayor Young,

My name is Ese Bowry. In the midst of a pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is inappropriate to propose increases to the Baltimore Police Department budget. I urge you to reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget, divest interest in the BPD, and invest in social services and education programs, effective for FY 2021.

Investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Safe Streets Baltimore, the Office of Employment and Development, or the Department of Health will have a measurable and lasting impact on public health and safety.

Best,  
Ese Bowry

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** ethanhasiuk@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ethan Hasiuk  
<ethanhasiuk@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 8:49 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** FY 2021 Budget Comments

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

Please see the message below, and ensure that it is submitted as a public testimony on the 2021 BPD Budget Hearing:

I am writing as a member of Jews United for Justice to ask that you vote against the proposal to increase the Baltimore Police Department's budget. While I understand that City Council does not have the authority to re-allocate costs, it is fully within your power to cut funding.

The BPD should not receive more funding, especially at a time when it is clear that they do not protect Baltimore residents equally and other critical services are seeing cuts in funding.

Jews United for Justice supports the demands of Organizing Black and other partners in the Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs (CJSJ), and will continue to fight alongside them for the changes that must be made to root out racist, violent, and corrupt police practices and invest in meeting the basic needs of the people of our city.

Sincerely,

Ethan Hasiuk

434 Whitridge Ave Baltimore, MD 21218-4435 ethanhasiuk@gmail.com

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Evan M <emerkel15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:58 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the Police and Reallocate Budget to Public Schools & Health

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Dear Baltimore City Representatives,

I'm voting to voice my support in defunding the Baltimore City Police Department and redistribute the budget to more life-supporting and essential organizations that truly protect our citizens, especially our fellow Black and BIPOC citizens. The amount allocate to the BPD is undeserved and frankly, ridiculous when considering how badly our communities need health care, investment in public education, job support, etc. The fact is that Police Departments have a damning problem with violence and racism. This isn't just a bad apple situation - we need to start a whole new way of thinking about justice from the ground up.

Thank you for your time,

Evan Merkel

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** G G <g.goba91@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** SWOP Baltimore Statement on Baltimore FY21 Budget

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Hello,

Please add this testimony attached; thank you.

Take care and be safe,

Gassoh

---

 2020 Budget Proposal Testimony



## Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

---

**From:** Ginevra Shay <ginevrashay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 10:30 PM  
**To:** Clarke, MaryPat (City Council)  
**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council)  
**Subject:** Re: Mary: Budget Hearing Testimony from one of your Tuscany-Canterbury neighbors

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Hi Mary,

I'm glad you spoke up on behalf of the people you serve in the 14th District during the BPD portion of the budget hearing. When your constituents, like me, ask you to vote to defund the police, we are literally asking that. We want this corrupt, unreformable police department gone. Mary, the property taxes in our district are 10%. We are paying for a bloated corrupt police force that does not work. The answers these guys have been giving all night are completely bogus. There is no transparency in the BPD's budget, how this department works, the effectiveness of their programs, or their staffing structure. In reference to your second question, items that "were not brought up in any of the letters you received" we are well aware of the attempted and failed reforms to the police department. The new training and technologies do not work even under a consent decree and further oversight from the State of Maryland. You completely misconstrued your letters and misrepresented the degree to which your constituents have researched and are deeply aware of this police force.

My phone number is 301-996-9911. I would be happy to go on a walk with you and talk whenever you have time.

Sincerely,

Ginevra

On Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 12:40 PM Ginevra Shay <[ginevrashay@gmail.com](mailto:ginevrashay@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Mary,

Thank you for acknowledging my email. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the concerns I've brought up, and the article I shared with you. I will continue to wait for your reply. I will be tuning into the budget hearing portion for BPD this evening and I hope you will be present and expressing the concerns brought to you by the denizens of the 14th district.

Warm regards,

Ginevra

On Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 7:38 AM Clarke, MaryPat (City Council) <[MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for your advocacy, Ms. Shay. Mary Pat

Mary Pat Clarke

Baltimore City Council, 14<sup>th</sup> District

City Hall, Room 501

Baltimore, MD 21202

[Marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov)

Office: 410-396-4814

Cell: 443-676-6187

Staff:

[Taylor.Curry@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Taylor.Curry@baltimorecity.gov)

[Cindy.Leahy@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Cindy.Leahy@baltimorecity.gov)

[Miller.Roberts@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Miller.Roberts@baltimorecity.gov)

**From:** Ginevra Shay [<mailto:ginevrashay@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:49 PM

**To:** Clarke, MaryPat (City Council) <[MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov)>

**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council) <[Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov)>; Costello, Eric (City Council) <[Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov)>

**Subject:** Mary: Budget Hearing Testimony from one of your Tuscany-Canterbury neighbors

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Dear Mary,

We've never met, but we are neighbors. My name is Ginevra Shay, I'm an artist and curator. I live in the Highfield House, and you've probably seen my partner and I in the neighborhood walking to Wyman Park, Stony Run, MOMs, or Hopkins Deli. A few years ago I was the Artistic Director of The Contemporary, a nomadic museum in Baltimore, and we created an exhibition with artist Abigail DeVille at the former Peale Museum, helping it to reopen as the Peale Center, with an arts and culture focus, once again. Perhaps you went on one of the city employee guided tours of the exhibition, *Only When It's Dark Enough Can You See The Stars*. Jackson Gilman-Forlini always spoke highly of you.

I'm writing to you, as many others are from the 14th District, to express my commitment to reimaging Baltimore City's budget to function more effectively for all of this city's denizens.

I am incredibly grateful to live in Tuscany-Canterbury, I can easily walk to a grocery store, shops, cafes, parks, the circulator—it is quiet, beautiful, and I can go on a walk at any time of day and feel safe. We live in one of the most family friendly and well resourced neighborhoods in this city, and it is proven that well resourced neighborhoods without police constant presence are safer.

I know the history of this city fairly well, the historic discrimination, redlining, systematic disinvestment, willful neglect, city and state sanctioned violences that stretch back over 150 years. People across our city and this nation are calling for transformation. We know all too well that the Baltimore police force is an extremely powerful corrupt and violent gang that continues to suck this city's budget dry. There is a direct correlation between the disinvestment of city services, increase in the police budget, and an increase in murders in Baltimore over the past 10 years. This doesn't even include police murders because those are undisclosed.

We are sick and tired of these police misconduct payouts: \$24.5M between 2015-2019, and 2017: Federal ruling \$15M (not yet paid). These figures don't even count the legal fees associated with these cases. It is unacceptable that police base-salaries have increased from \$59,660 in 2011, to \$95,660 in 2018. A 59.51% increase. Relatedly, according to the Baltimore Sun in 2019, 19.5% of the police force actually lived in Baltimore City. Which means a large portion of this city's highest earning employees are paying property taxes to fulfill a budget somewhere else. The Baltimore police are beyond reform. It is time to reinvest in social services, and violent crime alternative programs such as Ceasefire and Roca which are proven to work. As a denizen of this city I personally feel the Baltimore Police have failed to keep me safe by perpetuating more violence and harm than reducing it.

Mary, I want every person living in Baltimore to have the same level of safety and access as ours and the main thing standing in the way of this dream is systemic racism and upholding the violent and unreformable Baltimore City Police.

I'm deeply concerned for the well-being of all of our citizens, especially my friends who are Black mothers who give so much to what makes Baltimore great, and the city we collectively love and fight for. Regardless of their occupation, class, or number of accolades, they fear for their lives, their partners, and the lives of their children, every day—regardless of what neighborhood they live in because of the police.

I beg you to please read this article in the New York Times, to understand the impact of direct and vicarious violence on Black mothers and children. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/magazine/black-mothers-babies-death-maternal-mortality.html>

As you end a long and celebrated tenure as 14th District representative, I ask you in this historic moment, larger than the Civil Rights Movement, that tomorrow you vote to defund the police by 50% so we can begin to heal the wrongs this city, and police force, have long perpetuated.

I'm asking you to specifically make cuts from the Baltimore Police Department's aviation, marine, intelligence, intelligence centers, new recruitment, new facilities, police legal affairs, to cut the Warrant Apprehension Task Force, to cut any new special task forces that are undisclosed to the public, The Emergency Rental Assistance Program for Public Safety Officers, JHU police, SWAT, Special Operations K 9 and Mounted Unit, Crime Investigation, Prosecution of Criminals, and any other line item in the BPD's budget that sees an increase in the FY21 budget.

Mary, Eric, and Marguerite please heed the call of the people you serve.

I look forward to your response,

Ginevra Shay

301-996-9911

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[ginevrashay.com](http://ginevrashay.com)

[rosearcade.info](http://rosearcade.info)

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[ginevrashay.com](http://ginevrashay.com)

[rosearcade.info](http://rosearcade.info)

[ginevrashay.com](http://ginevrashay.com)  
[rosecade.info](http://rosecade.info)

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Ginevra Shay <ginevrashay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** Clarke, MaryPat (City Council)  
**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council)  
**Subject:** Re: Mary: Budget Hearing Testimony from one of your Tuscany-Canterbury neighbors

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Thanks for your advocacy, Ms. Shay. Mary Pat

*Mary Pat Clarke*

Baltimore City Council, 14<sup>th</sup> District

City Hall, Room 501

Baltimore, MD 21202

[Marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov)

Office: 410-396-4814

Cell: 443-676-6187

Staff:

[Taylor.Curry@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Taylor.Curry@baltimorecity.gov)

[Cindy.Leahy@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Cindy.Leahy@baltimorecity.gov)

**From:** Ginevra Shay [mailto:[ginevrashay@gmail.com](mailto:ginevrashay@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:49 PM  
**To:** Clarke, MaryPat (City Council) <[MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov)>  
**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council) <[Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov)>; Costello, Eric (City Council) <[Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov)>  
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I'm deeply concerned for the well-being of all of our citizens, especially my friends who are Black mothers who give so much to what makes Baltimore great, and the city we collectively love and fight for. Regardless of their occupation, class, or number of accolades, they fear for their lives, their partners, and the lives of their children, every day—regardless of what neighborhood they live in because of the police.

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I'm asking you to specifically make cuts from the Baltimore Police Department's aviation, marine, intelligence, intelligence centers, new recruitment, new facilities, police legal affairs, to cut the Warrant Apprehension Task Force, to cut any new special task forces that are undisclosed to the public, The Emergency Rental Assistance Program for Public Safety Officers, JHU police, SWAT, Special Operations K 9 and Mounted Unit, Crime Investigation, Prosecution of Criminals, and any other line item in the BPD's budget that sees an increase in the FY21 budget.

Mary, Eric, and Marguerite please heed the call of the people you serve.



I look forward to your response,

Ginevra Shay

301-996-9911

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[ginevrashay.com](http://ginevrashay.com)

[rosecade.info](http://rosecade.info)

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[ginevrashay.com](http://ginevrashay.com)

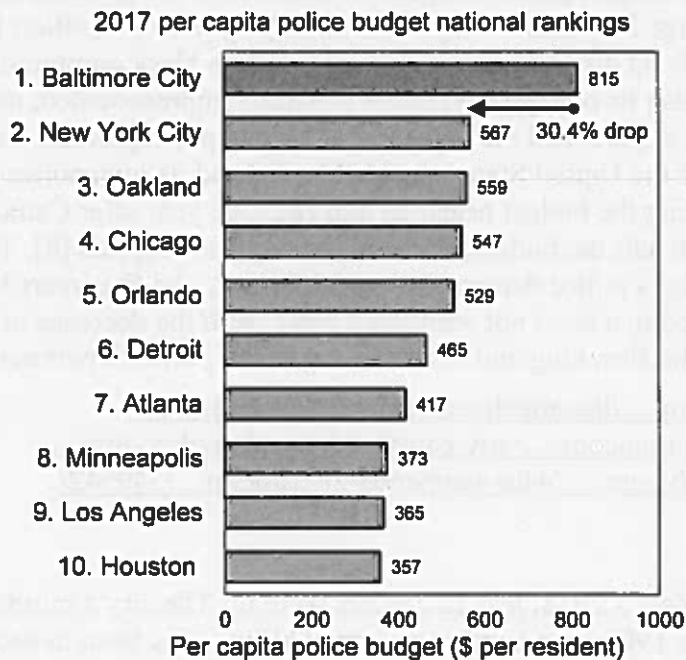
[rosecade.info](http://rosecade.info)



Re: Written testimony for the budget of Baltimore Police Department  
Emil Sandoz-Rosado  
2407 Madison Ave, Apt 1  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask that the council substantially defund Baltimore Police Department and demand that the Mayor reallocate the funds to underserved communities in Baltimore. Baltimore ranks first in the nation for per capita police budget for cities with populations above 500,000 residents, and we are first by a massive margin.



A 2017 Forbes article shows Baltimore City's police budget total is fifth overall in the United States [1], despite Baltimore City's population being the thirtieth-largest. When those 2017 municipal police budgets are ranked per capita, Baltimore City is in first place. The margin by which Baltimore City holds that unenviable title is truly alarming: **if we cut the Baltimore City Police Department budget by 30%, we would still be number one in per capita police spending nationally.**

[1] <https://www.forbes.com/.../how-much-do-u-s-cities-spend-eve.../...>

That 30% cut amounts to \$153 million per year based on the 2019 BPD budget, and that savings figure does not include the additional \$48.5 million in overtime [2] Baltimore City Police charged in questionable and poorly-overseen billing practices [3] in 2019, or the over \$1 million a year Baltimore City pays in police brutality settlements [4]. Baltimore City must redirect those funds, in total over \$200 million annually, to underserved and vulnerable communities and still be first in the country in per capita police spending.

[2] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-police-overtime-201...>

[3] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-police-overtime-202...>

[4] <https://data.baltimoresun.com/news/police-settlements/>

What could Baltimore do to improve if the city had an extra \$200 million dollars a year to spend? With an additional \$200 million annual budget it would take less than two years to accumulate the estimated \$350 million it would take to end homelessness in the city [5], or that additional budget could be used to extend pre-k to cover kids as young as three years old who are far under the poverty line [6].

[5] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-pugh-homeless-plan-...>

[6] <https://wamu.org/.../maryland-is-set-to-expand-free-pre-k-bu.../>

The spotlight on police brutality brought on by the Black Lives Matter movement has also drawn scrutiny to bloated police budgets. In response to the protests that have broken out after the death of George Floyd, Los Angeles is cutting up to \$150 million from their police department budget [7] and directing that funding to its own black community. The decision for a city to dramatically slash its own police budget is neither unprecedented, nor radical. In 2013 Camden, New Jersey, while it had the highest murder rate per capita and was known widely as the ‘murder capital’ of the United States, decided to disband its own police department and form a new one while slashing the budget nearly in half [8]. One year after Camden reformed its police department with half the budget, crime in the city had dropped [8]. The decrease in crime continued after Camden’s police department was reformed, and five years later the murder rate in Camden had dropped to a level not seen since 1987, with the decrease in murder rate being attributed directly to the shrinking and restructuring of the police department [9].

[7] <https://deadline.com/.../los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-cit.../>

[8] <https://www.governing.com/.../gov-camden-disbands-police-forc...>

[9] <https://www.citylab.com/.../what-happened-to-crime-in.../549542/>

From [9]:

‘But on New Year’s 2018, just 22 candles were lit: The city’s murder rate fell to its lowest since 1987. The number of annual killings has been in decline since 2012; so have robberies, aggravated assaults, violent crimes, property crimes, and non-fatal shooting incidents.

So what’s happening in this city, which for many years has been deemed among the dangerous in America? Thomson, who took the helm of the Camden police force in 2008, says the biggest factor may have been the change in structure of the department itself. In 2013, the Camden Police Department was disbanded, reimagined, and born again as the Camden County Police Department, with fewer officers, lower pay—and a strategic shift toward “community policing.”’

Baltimore City has observed an inverse spending-crime relationship to Camden's, with an increasing police budget bringing no accompanying decrease in crime [10]. In fact, BPD’s performance has decreased as its budget has swelled. If Baltimore City’s murder rate is its most visible crime metric, then BPD’s murder clearance rate should be the most visible performance metric, and it is abysmal. BPD’s murder clearance rate in 2019 was 32%, far below the 57% national average for cities with populations above 500,000 residents, and BPD’s lowest murder

clearance rate in three decades [11]. In 2010, when BPD's budget was 32% lower than it was in 2019, BPD's murder clearance rate was 56%, on par with the national average [11].

[10] <https://marketurbanismreport.com/.../in-baltimore-more-police...>

[11] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-crime-policy-201912...>

All of these quantitative reasons to defund the Baltimore police department pale in comparison to the moral and humanitarian reasons. We should not have to consider the numbers when Freddie Gray died while in BPD custody which at best could be called gross negligence and disregard for human life and dignity. We should not have to consider the numbers when BPD had such egregious civil rights violations that the Department of Justice had to step in and establish a consent decree which is still being enacted [12]. We should not have to consider the numbers when a profoundly corrupt and violent police gun trace task force terrorized the citizens they were sworn to protect, and were decorated by a city that has lost all ability to hold the worst elements of its police department accountable [13], with city oversight impossible due to BPD's status as a state agency [14]. But here we are, considering numbers, and numbers don't lie.

[12] <https://www.baltimoresun.com/.../bs-md-ci-consent-decree-expl...>

[13] <https://www.vox.com/.../.../baltimore-gun-trace-task-force-trial>

[14] <https://www.abell.org/.../baltimore-police-department-underst...>

It is time to find a better use for our money- to use it to truly provide for Baltimore City's underserved.

Regards,

-Emil Sandoz-Rosado



**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

**From:** Greene, Larry (City Council)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Corrected Copy - Telework Status Report 06.19.2020  
**Attachments:** TELEWORK STATUS 06.15.2020.xlsx

See Attached.

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Greg Bowen <gbowenyo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Redirect funding from Baltimore Police to other resources

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Hello!

I'm sure you're getting a lot of feedback right now, but I'd like to add my strong support for reducing the police budget in Baltimore City, and using the funding for community resources including, but not limited to, dedicated mental health responders, conflict resolution providers such as Safe Streets, and education and employment resources. We don't need police for traffic stops, well-being checks, or noise complaints. In cases where we really do need a first-responder, they should be prepared to assist with the real problem at hand, such as lack of shelter, drug addiction, mental illness, or domestic abuse. We have no evidence to believe the police department will ever be that resource, and we're throwing away a fortune in taxpayer money on a government entity that does not serve the people.

I'm a Baltimore City resident, homeowner, taxpayer, and business owner. I care about the health of this city, and I firmly believe that this is the first step toward rethinking our community. If we have learned anything from the 2015 and 2020 uprisings, it's that the people of Baltimore - all of them, especially those protesting and organizing - care about peace, prosperity and cooperation. These could have been violent disasters, and they just plain weren't, because the people of Baltimore chose peace. We shouldn't fear our own citizens, we should support them all.

Thank you for your support.

--

Greg Bowen



**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Gretchen Falk <falk.gretchen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Written testimony for budget hearing

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To the members of the Baltimore City Council:

I know a number of you likely have full inboxes with messages about defunding the Baltimore Police Department. Let this letter be one more voice adding to the choir singing that message.

As you enter the final and most contentious part of the budget hearings, I implore you to think critically about how Baltimore City has spent our money in years past, and the results we've seen with those allocations. Please boldly consider what a new way of serving our communities might look like. What services could be funded that are better equipped to meet the complex needs of Baltimore's residents? I strongly believe that funding social and community support services will more appropriately and humanely meet the needs of Baltimoreans than any police force ever could.

Thank you,  
Gretchen Falk  
-Riverside neighborhood (District 11)

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Griff Radulski <griff.radulski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:39 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Thank you for extending public comment period

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Baltimore City IT Network Systems.  
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Dear Ms. Currin,

Thank you all for extending the public comment period on the 2021 fiscal budget. I want to reiterate that the BPD must be defunded and that money must be put towards useful social services. I recognize that there is likely not time to completely dismantle the police department and replace it with a functional system by next week when the hearings are held, but the council must make deep, deep cuts to the police department to show the community that it is acting in good faith. I also recognize that BPD is actually a state agency. However, the city may have more autonomy than it realizes, as when it started refusing to prosecute on pot cases. The police department needs the city's cooperation, and with its checkered and bloody track record, it shouldn't get it anymore.

Thank you.

Griffin Radulski

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Haadiya Ahmed <hhaadiyaahmed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:31 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** PLEASE Decrease the BPD Budget and Invest in Community Development

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Hi there,

My name is Haadiya Ahmed and I am an undergraduate student at Johns Hopkins University and live in Baltimore MD. I am writing to express my opposition to the increase in the BPD Budget for 2021. Upon coming to Hopkins I have seen just how much the Baltimore community is falling apart. We need to invest in community development initiatives and the only way we can accomplish that would be through defunding the police department.

In the midst of this pandemic & public outcry against police brutality, it feels more inappropriate than ever to propose increases to the BPD budget from \$530 Million to \$545 million. I urge you to ethically reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget, divesting interest in the BPD, and investing in social services and education programs, effective at the beginning of FY 2021. PLEASE investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Safe Streets Baltimore, the Office of Employment and Development, or the Department of Health, shows our commitment to communities and the vision that all Baltimore residents deserve to thrive.

Historically, the city government has spent far more on police than on public health, homeless services, youth services, and other vital agencies.

It's time to defund the BPD's harmful expansion into homeless services, schools, youth services, mental health, and other social services where police don't belong. It's time to protect investments in human services, the social safety net, and racial and economic justice.

I am writing to insist that the upcoming BBMR budget hearings for FY 2021 reflect the voices and needs of Baltimore's citizens. I am asking that city officials lobby intense care, attention and effort towards finding sustainable, longterm change.

Thank you,  
Haadiya Ahmed  
June 12, 2020

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Haley Deutsch <haleydeutsch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:42 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Public Written Testimony - Baltimore Budget Hearings

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Good afternoon,

My name is Haley Deutsch and I am a Baltimore City resident.

As a public health professional working in violence intervention, I am writing to urge our city council to defund the Baltimore City Police Department and ethically reallocate the money to social services and education programs. Investing in our communities and their health rather than in increasingly violent and segregated police responses will do more to address the root causes of crime and inequality than any police action. Both the BPD itself and city leadership have proven time and time again that increased funding for the police is not correlated with a reduction in crime. We also know from decades of peer reviewed research that common proposed reforms, like banning chokeholds or use of force, or use of body cameras, do not have a statistically significant effect on police violence towards Black people. In fact, an increasingly militarized and aggressive police force is contributing to the continued decay of our most vulnerable communities.

It is patently absurd that while our schools do not have adequate air conditioning or heating, and while our hospitals and health department must scrounge for makeshift or homemade PPE during a pandemic, or while we are closing city rec centers and programs due to "lack of funding," the BPD budget only increases. Baltimore is among the cities with the highest per capita cost of policing, and that cost is completely unrelated to the crime this city experiences. Overpolicing our neighborhoods creates and exacerbates generational cycles of trauma that serve to tear neighborhoods apart and create worse health outcomes for their residents.

As a public health professional, it is unconscionable to me that my city leadership would spend five times as much on the police than on any social services, civil rights, food access, infrastructure, or neighborhood reinvestment, particularly in light of proven evidence that the BPD uses discriminatory and violent tactics against this city's residents. Frankly, it is acutely embarrassing for me to work in the field of violence intervention and have the city ignore such obvious solutions, only to turn around and blame violence on city residents with no access to resources who are surveilled constantly and harassed daily by police.

I urge you as both rational lawmakers and ethical human beings to defund the BPD and reinvest in services we know will help city residents. To willfully overlook these blatant

contradictions in our budget is to knowingly and directly contribute to the preventable deaths and suffering of city residents.

We have an opportunity to create real, lasting change in Baltimore. Let's take that chance, and start by defunding BPD.

Thank you,  
Haley Deutsch  
June 12, 2020

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Haley Deutsch  
MHS, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health  
215-264-0661

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** hholt123@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Hannah Holt <hholt123@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:38 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Cut BPD Funding, save lives, save the soul of Maryland

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

Please see the message below, and ensure that it is submitted as a public testimony on the 2021 BPD Budget Hearing:

I am writing as an Essential Worker and Baltimore resident to ask that you vote against the proposal to increase the Baltimore Police Department's budget. While I understand that City Council does not have the authority to re-allocate costs, it is fully within your power to cut funding.

I grew up in Annapolis and I now live in Baltimore. I am a white woman. I believe we need to redistribute funding away from the BPD and into social services, jobs and peace keeping focused public safety programs. I attended Annapolis High school and seen the school to prison pipeline first hand. I have seen my Black peers shoved against walls by administrators when I was only in middle school. I have seen 15 year olds backpacks searched by police officers for "talking back." The prison atmosphere of schools needs to stop. The occupation of black communities by militarized police forces needs to stop. You can help this stop.

The BPD should not receive more funding, especially at a time when it is clear that they do not protect Baltimore residents equally and other critical services are seeing cuts in funding.

I support the demands of Organizing Black and other partners in the Campaign for Justice, Safety and Jobs (CJSJ), and will continue to fight alongside them for the changes that must be made to root out racist, violent, and corrupt police practices and invest in meeting the basic needs of the people of our city.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Holt  
205 E 30th St Apt 403 Baltimore, MD 21218-4078 hholt123@gmail.com

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Hannah Leker <hannahleker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Comments on the FY2021 budget

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Dear Baltimore City Health Committee Marguerite Currin,

As a resident of Baltimore, I'm disappointed to see that the proposed FY2021 budget includes increased funding for the Baltimore Police Department at the expense of other services. We must increase funding for programs that will improve public health and protect us from climate change instead, and provide beloved and desperately needed services to our neighbors: from recreational programming to Complete Streets implementation, from redeveloping affordable homes and housing our homeless neighbors to investing in the zero waste infrastructure that can allow us to close BRESCO. To the City Council: I know that you cannot modify the budget and can only cut. Please cut funding to the police department. To Mayor Young: please reallocate that money to Transportation, Recreation and Parks, Health, Housing, and other departments that will help us build a healthier, safer, and more climate-resilient Baltimore.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Leker  
1409 Hull St  
Baltimore, MD 21230

## **Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Heather Savino <heathermariesavino@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:56 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** bernardc.jackyoung@baltimore.gov; Cohen, Zeke (City Council)  
**Subject:** DEFUND THE POLICE

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Dear Baltimore City Mayor and Council,

My name is Heather Savino and I am a Baltimore resident, District 1. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it feels more inappropriate than ever to propose increases to the BPD budget from \$530 Million to \$545 million. I urge you to ethically reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget, divesting interest in the BPD, and investing in social services and education programs, effective at the beginning of FY 2021. Investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Safe Streets Baltimore, the Office of Employment and Development, or the Department of Health, shows our commitment to communities and the vision that all Baltimore residents deserve to thrive.

Historically, the city government has spent far more on police than on public health, homeless services, youth services, and other vital agencies. It's time to defund the BPD's harmful expansion into homeless services, schools, youth services, mental health, and other social services. They do not belong here. It's time to protect investments in human services, the social safety net, and racial and economic justice.

I am writing to insist that budget hearings for FY 2021 reflect the voices and needs of Baltimore's citizens. DEFUND THE POLICE.

Thank you,  
Heather Savino  
153 N. Linwood Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21224