

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Angela Lacerna <alacerna@fandm.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:15 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 Angela Lacerna. 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,
Angela Lacerna

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Anne Smith <annesmith711@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council); City Council President; Costello, Eric (City Council)
Subject: Baltimore City FY21 Budget Comments

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Dear Marguerite Currin, Council President Brandon M. Scott & Councilperson Eric Costello,

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,

Anne Smith

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Annelise Alt <annelisemalt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:29 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: I know this might go in the trash...but please listen

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Good evening, Marguerite.

My boss at work says that sending emails at night is unprofessional but honestly, this is too important right now I don't care if it's unprofessional. My name is Annelise Alt and I am a Baltimore resident in district 7. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it feels especially inappropriate to propose an increase to the BPD budget to \$545 million. Think of where else that money could go! How much we could change the city of Baltimore. We've already been a catalyst for change of the peaceful protests and the nation is already watching us....why don't we make another bold but overdue step forward and join Minneapolis in defunding or at least reform the police?

At any rate, please, as a citizen of Baltimore I urge you to ethically reallocate this increase, as well as a meaningful portion of the remaining BPD budget, towards social services and education. 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. Let's show 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 necessary things that a city needs to succeed such as public health, homeless services, youth services, recreational services, school services and other vital agencies.

It's time to staunch the expansion of the BPD's mandate where an armed police force simply doesn'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 give intense care, attention and effort towards sustainable, long-term change.

Thank you,
Annelise Alt
District 7

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Anthony So <anthonydso@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:02 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,
Anthony So
1102 Terrace Gln
Baltimore, MD 21210

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Atticus Hebson <atticus.hebson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Fwd: Council Member Clarke, please defund the BPD!

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Dear Ms. Currin,

I hope you are well. I am sending you my (one-sided) correspondence with Councilperson Clarke which I would like to be included in the public comments for the BPD funding hearing.

Best
Atticus Hebson
718 E 36th St Baltimore, MD 21218
8472121169

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Atticus Hebson <atticus.hebson@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 11:53 PM
Subject: Council Member Clarke, please defund the BPD!
To: <marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov>

Dear Council Member Clarke,

My name is Atticus Hebson, I live at 718 E 36th St in the 14th District of Baltimore City. I have written to you twice previously asking for you to consider advocating for the cutting of the BPD budget. I am including these and further commentary below, and I am asking you to please include them in the file for the police budget hearing.

Best wishes,
Atticus Hebson

1. My name is Atticus Hebson and I am a resident of Baltimore's 14th District. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is more inappropriate than ever to propose increases to the Baltimore Police Department 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 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 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, long term change.

2.. As the Baltimore Sun Editorial Board notes in a piece published yesterday, June 8, the 44% of the city budget that goes to public safety could be much better spent elsewhere. The massive investments required for education, parks and recreation, homeless services, etc in Baltimore City must come from somewhere. Is within your power to make sure that the BPD does not waste those funds violently policing Baltimore's Black populations.

As a teacher, you are surely cognizant of the unique suffering of Black youth at the hands of the police. This cannot continue. I beg you to end your tenure as a member of the Baltimore City Council by defunding the BPD and making your legacy one of compassion and hope for this city.

3. Through relentless fraud, abuse of power, racism, brutality, and criminality, the Baltimore Police Department has demonstrated that it is not fit to serve Baltimore City. It must be defunded completely. Paltry reforms will only serve to further entrench this horrible institution, which continues to sick its officers on the Black residents of Baltimore. Police abolishment is racial justice is economic justice.

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Azya Maxton <missazya@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:56 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 Asia Maxton (21218). 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,

Asia Maxton

"Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can and should be and he will become as he can and should be."-Goethe

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Benjamin Walter <benjamin.jh.walter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Message to Budget and Appropriations Committee

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Dear Budget and Appropriations Committee,

My name is Ben Walter and I live in District 12. I understand that you are discussing the budget today and are receiving constituent input. You all should find a better way to process outreach rather than deleting emails; perhaps making room in the budget for such a necessity. I find it alarming that you are doing this.

There are hundreds of community-led organizations which meet the needs of our city residents. City money should be divested from the police and invested in these organizations.

I hope you are paying close attention to these mutual aid networks and understanding the reality that they/we are meeting the needs of our neighbors (with our own time, money, and resources) where the city is failing.

Black people of Baltimore are unable to flourish because their neighborhoods and schools are in disrepair and overpoliced. Remove Baltimore from the participation in the school to prison pipeline and the prison industrial complex. It is a vicious cycle and you need to join meaningfully in the work your constituents are doing to right this imbalance. We are at a turning point and we should work towards a collaboration with the city and the citizens to meet the needs of our people. But we can't do that with the bloated budget for the police.

You need to understand (because it is your job as a public servant) and never forget that policing is a racist institution whose cultural roots run deep in history and in the present. You need to take this problem seriously because people are dying and black communities and lives and families are held back from ever flourishing under this system.

You are the arbiter of this system. There is a collaboration possible between the creativity and compassion of our community and the resources and large-scale awareness of our representatives.

Invest in grassroots, community led organizations to flourish a lively, healthy, and thriving Baltimore. Defund the police which keeps us all down and does not work at making our city a better place.

In solidarity,
Ben Walter

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Beth Watkins <iambethwatkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Comments on the BPD and City Budget

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Dear Ms. Currin,

My name is Beth Watkins and I'm a resident of Baltimore City. I know today is the last day to comment on the police budget for the city for the year and I have a comment.

It's said that budgets are moral documents, and if that is true, which I believe it is, our city's budget is immoral. I am aghast that the proposed BPD budget is more than 3X the amount proposed for housing and community development, employment development, homeless services, recreation and parks, art and culture, health, and civil rights COMBINED.

I courteously demand the following:

- An immediate divestment from the Baltimore Police Department.
- 50% of the BPD's operating budget be invested in Baltimore's Black communities.
- The immediate abolishment of LEOBOR.
- The city of Baltimore gains control of our corrupt and violent police department.

I work vocationally for the good of the vulnerable citizens of this city and I am appalled by how much of the city budget could go to programs that would actually improve the city and the lives of it's most vulnerable residents, and instead goes to a force that targets, harasses, and even kills our citizens.

I appeal to you to do better for our city.

Regards,

--
Beth Watkins

--
Beth Watkins

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Bianca Fernandez <biancafernandez1818@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Henry, Bill (email); McCray, Danielle (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); City Council President; Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council)
Subject: FY2021 Budget Comments

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Dear Baltimore City Council,

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,

Bianca Fernandez, LMSW

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Blippie Life <d80farrow@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 7:18 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 Dominique Farrow. 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,

Ms.Farrow

Sent from my iPhone

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Brenda McCoy <mindfultandwservices@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:02 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 Brenda J. McCoy. 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,

Brenda J. McCoy

Brenda J. McCoy, LCSW-C, SAP
Mindful Therapeutic & Wellness Services, LLC
443-854-7459
FAX: 410-870-0822

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Brian Thompson <Brian.Thompson@BCParking.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Accepted: Invitation to Web seminar: BUDGET HEARINGS - DAY FIVE (5)

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Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Brittney Baltimore <bebaltimore@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: FY21 BPD Budget

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Hello,

My name is Brittney Baltimore, and I'm a District 3 Baltimore resident. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it feels especially inappropriate to propose an increase to the BPD budget to \$545 million. I'm urging the mayor and city council to ethically reallocate this increase, as well as a meaningful portion of the remaining BPD budget, towards social services and education. Investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 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. This while the Baltimore Police Department disproportionately targets nonwhite residents—from traffic stops to the use of lethal force.

It's time to staunch the expansion of the BPD's mandate into homeless services, schools, youth services, mental health, and other social services where an armed police force simply doesn'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 give intense care, attention and effort towards sustainable, long-term change.

Thank you,

Brittney Baltimore
443-307-3567

Curriu, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Brooks Rubin <brooksruhin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Curriu, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Defund the Police Today

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Good morning.

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to you as someone born and raised here urging you to defund the police as much as possible with this new budget. My whole life here (20 years) I've never seen or heard of the police doing something good for somebody while I see the effects of them terrorizing people all the time. We need to do better as a city and we can do better if our resources are allocated to support the people who live here rather than being allocated to monitor and control people who live here.

We should be feeding, housing, and providing healthcare for everybody before we spend any more dollars on patrollers and surveillance technology.

God bless and take care,
Brooks Rubin
3031 Abell Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21218

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: emily@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emily Scott
<emily@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: A pastor calls for complete policing overhaul

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

I am writing you as a religious leader to ask that you take action to make broad and necessary changes to policing in Baltimore. Policing in the United States, and in our nation, has become increasingly militarized, as if the police are at war with our people. In addition, a study conducted of Baltimore policing found deep levels of corruption and abuses.

As a pastor, I am trained in family systems theory, which teaches us that to change a system, you cannot just replace one piece and hope for the best. Rather, you must start from scratch, with a new set of intentions.

We need a public safety system that is focused on PEOPLE, that responds differently to different types of crises. A mental health crisis is not the same of a shooting. We need social workers, unarmed security, and units prepared to respond to violent situations, all designed to work for the people. We are called by God to treat each human being with respect and dignity. Our current policing model creates an environment that degrades and disrespects God's people.

As a first step, I am asking that you vote NO on 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, and I hope you will push for a significant reduction in the police budget.

The BPD should not receive more funding, especially at a time when it is clear that they do not protect Baltimore residents equally and it has been proposed that other critical services have their budgets cut.

This email is also going to the Budget and Appropriations Committee staff to submit it as public testimony for the Fiscal Year 2021 BPD Budget Hearing. I want to be sure this message is put in the public record.

Sincerely,
Rev. Emily Scott
2417 Saint Paul St Baltimore, MD 21218-5119 emily@dreamsandvisionsbaltimore.org

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: adwoa hanson-hall <ahhall@bu.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Baltimore Budget

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Hello,

As a citizen of Baltimore it's important that funds are allocated properly. BPD does more harm than aid to the community and should not receive the lion's share of available funds. Community needs like housing, youth services, homeless prevention and parks should take precedent especially as our city copes with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Thanks,
Adwoa

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Molly McCullagh <molly.mccullagh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Baltimore budget input

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Molly McCullagh, and I am a Baltimore resident. I applaud efforts by Bill Henry and other councilmembers to identify funding currently proposed in the FY2021 budget to the Baltimore Police Department and re-channel it to other agencies whose work also supports a safer Baltimore, such as education, trauma remediation, and affordable housing. I am asking that city officials give intense care, attention, and effort towards sustainable, long-term change that supports our city's residents to thrive.

Thank you,

Molly McCullagh
2715 Miles Ave
molly.mccullagh@gmail.com
734-476-5265

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: andurin@gmail.com on behalf of Avelino <avelino@avelinomaestas.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:31 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: BPD Budget

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Hello,

If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result, then our city has lost its collective mind over policing. Despite a consent decree and millions of dollars in wasted overtime, we're no better off than we were a decade ago. Policing in Baltimore is fundamentally broken, and it's long past time we started looking for new ways to solve the problems plaguing Charm City. Law enforcement is a bandage to treat the symptoms of what ails our communities; it's time we begin devoting real resources to the underlying and systemic issues that give rise to crime and unrest.

I call on our City Council to immediately begin the process of defunding the Baltimore Police Department, and instead start addressing the broken social contract that leaves our children hungry and undereducated, our families without adequate and affordable housing, and our residents breathing dirty air. We need new forms of justice in Baltimore, economic justice and environmental justice. Our kids deserve quality schools and exceptional teachers, and to be taught by a diverse staff. They need specialists and counselors and nurses, high-quality food and a comfortable experience on hot, summer days. Our residents deserve green, open spaces to recreate, tree canopies in neighborhoods that long have gone without, and streets and sidewalks that aren't crumbling apart. Residents everywhere deserve the same kind of infrastructure as Roland Park and Guilford, with smooth, tree-lined streets, good sidewalks, and plenty of parks. We need to expand transit options and make them more accessible and affordable, and we need to fund and fulfill our Complete Streets requirements.

I recognize that we cannot accomplish this vision overnight, but we **must** begin now. We spend more money per-capita on policing than almost every other major American city, and what do we have to show for it? It's time for a different approach.

Oh, and ground the Spy Plane — that's immoral and unconstitutional.

-Avelino Maestas
Bolton Hill Resident

--

Avelino Maestas
avelinomaestas.com

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Chris Ritzo <chris.ritzo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:40 AM
To: Cohen, Zeke (City Council)
Cc: Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); McCray, Danielle (City Council); Henry, Bill (email); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Currin, Marguerite (City Council); City Council President; Bernard C Jack Young
Subject: BPD budget hearing 6/12/2020, comments from Highlandtown resident

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Good morning Mr. Cohen,

Congratulations on your recent re-election. As your constituent at 230 S. Highland Ave., I'm writing this morning to comment on the BPD 2021 budget hearing, this afternoon at 5:30pm, and would like my comments to be included in the file for the hearing.

We're in an historic moment where our nation has the opportunity to reform policing from the ground up, and in Baltimore we should invest broadly in the community rather than continue supporting a broken system.

The interventions of BPD are not helping our community. Mass surveillance and conflict escalation tactics obviously aren't working. Continuing to increase the BPD budget is a horrible idea. Instead, the city should divest from the BPD and encourage other institutions to cut ties with them as well. The city should institute reforms focusing on restorative and transformative justice practices for handling conflict.

We need to invest in black communities in Baltimore. Half of BPD's 2020 budget should be reallocated to education, infrastructure, housing, healthcare, and social services. Our community deserves investment, instead of throwing good money after bad to the BPD.

Police reform requires accountability, and individual officers who commit crimes or enact violence on our community should not be protected from public accountability. The city should immediately abolish the Law Enforcement Officer's bill of rights, which is a roadblock to transparency and accountability.

Finally, why is BPD a state agency? Baltimore should be in complete control of its police, not the state. The city needs to determine how to handle issues of health and safety, not outside actors.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Chris Ritzo
230 S. Highland Ave.

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Bret McCabe <bretmcbret@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Middleton, Sharon (City Council)
Cc: Tywanda.Cooper (City Council); Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: re: BPD funding

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Dear Councilperson Sharon Green Middleton:

I am a Baltimore City resident of the 6th District and I am writing to urge you to vote to cut the Baltimore Police Department's budget by at least 10 percent overall, defund ineffective over-militarized expenditures such as the spy plane and Stingray, cap police cap overtime at \$10 million instead of \$40 million), and reallocate funds to better civic interventions to curb violence and crime such as Safe Streets, the Baltimore City Health Department to remediate/abate lead poisoning, mental health counselors in public schools and recreation centers in previously disinvested communities, Baltimore Ceasefire, and a gun buyback effort.

Respectfully,
Bret McCabe

cc: Fiscal Policy Analyst Marguerite Currin
Tywanda Miller

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: arlenebarrow1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Martha Arlene Barrow
<arlenebarrow1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: BPD Funding - 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 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.

It's imperative that we continue to fight 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,
Martha Arlene Barrow
407 E Lorraine Ave Baltimore, MD 21218-4713 arlenebarrow1@gmail.com

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Katie Callahan <katie.everything.callahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Katie Callahan
Subject: 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,
Katie Callahan Foreman

Sent from my iPhone

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Danielle Damico <daniellecdamico@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Budget Allocation for FY21

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Hello,

I am writing in regard to the proposed budget for Baltimore's new fiscal year starting July 1, 2020. It is clear that the proposed budget of \$509,250,161 grossly surpasses what is budgeted for housing development, homeless services, arts and culture, health, civil rights, recreation and parks and employment development.

For too long Baltimore City has relied on a police force to solve multifaceted challenges within the city. These complex challenges require multifaceted solutions and those solutions need to be funded. I am demanding that at least 50% of the BPD operation budget be cut and that money go toward investing in Black communities of Baltimore. Investing more in Baltimore City Public Schools, housing development and healthcare.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,
Danielle Damico

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Christine Manganaro <christinemanganaro@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: budget comment/request

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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to comment on the 2021 budget process, specifically to request that much of the intended budget for the Baltimore Police Department be reallocated to health and human services.

At least HALF of the current BPD budget should be reallocated to support local youth programming, K-16 and trade education, parks and recreation, public health, grassroots public safety and harm reduction practices, substance abuse rehabilitation, and environmental/energy justice.

Sincerely,
Christine Manganaro, PhD
Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and Faculty, Maryland Institute College of Art
Hampden

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Andrew Hinz <ahinz61@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Budget comments

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Dollars by Service

| Service | FY19 Actual | FY20 Budget | FY21 BOE |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 621 Administrative Bureau | 40,479,276 | 93,800,640 | 110,402,272 |
| 622 Police Patrol | 292,884,046 | 202,444,391 | 231,911,463 |
| 623 Criminal Investigation Division | 40,863,696 | 53,498,966 | 60,289,366 |
| 624 Target Violent Criminals | 37,445,664 | 52,746,294 | 0 |
| 625 SWAT - ESU | 10,161,839 | 10,877,390 | 0 |
| 626 Data Driven Strategies | 9,137,528 | 16,293,428 | 10,380,293 |
| 627 Emergency Communications | 12,194,814 | 14,064,986 | 0 |
| 628 Public Integrity Bureau | 9,165,489 | 12,995,906 | 9,160,770 |
| 632 Manage Police Records | 8,969,096 | 7,483,083 | 0 |
| 634 Crowd, Traffic, and Special Events Management | 9,494,063 | 11,610,040 | 0 |
| 635 Recruitment Section | 12,449,182 | 22,622,468 | 20,401,253 |
| 637 Special Operations - K-9 and Mounted Unit | 4,482,043 | 4,509,328 | 0 |
| 638 Marine Unit | 1,969,703 | 2,765,832 | 0 |
| 640 Special Operations - Aviation | 4,949,086 | 7,054,321 | 0 |
| 642 Crime Laboratory and Evidence Control | 15,494,878 | 23,609,404 | 23,164,206 |
| 807 Compliance Bureau | 0 | 0 | 37,424,795 |
| 816 Special Operations Section | 0 | 0 | 26,209,448 |
| 853 Patrol Support Services | 0 | 0 | 20,615,653 |
| TOTAL | 510,140,403 | 536,376,477 | 549,959,519 |

Proposed Cuts

cut Police Patrol by 20% - \$46,382,292.60
cut Data Driven Strategies by 30% - \$3,114,087.90
cut Recruitment Section by 15% - \$3,060,187.95
cut Special Operations Section by 75% - \$19,657,086.00

Andrew Hinz
1427 Park Avenue

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Dashielle Horn <dashiellehorn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Budget Hearing Feedback

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Hello!

I write regarding the proposed increase to the Baltimore Police Department budget from \$530 million to \$545 million. Particularly in the current public health crisis (I refer to both COVID-19 and police violence against people of color), I urge you to reallocate these funds to social services and education, particularly homeless services and youth services. To quote the Preliminary Budget Plan, "in the context of Baltimore's tenuous position as an older city with high service demands, unmet infrastructure needs, and a lower taxable base relative to other Maryland counties," we need to be mindful of budget *increases*, and policing is the last place they should go (Budget Plan, p. 7). The appropriate increases to education should continue to be the focus pursuant to the Kirwan Plan, and any other increases should be dedicated to 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.

Thank you for taking public opinions into account.

Best,
Dashielle Horn, Ph.D
1305 Asbury Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
443-791-7725

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Sophie Reverdy <sophiereverdy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Budget Testimony

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Hello,

My name is Sophie Reverdy and I am a Baltimore City resident, in the 14th district. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is more inappropriate than ever to propose increases to the Baltimore Police Department 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 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 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, long term change.

Thank you,

Sophie Reverdy

June 12, 2020

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Anna Crooks <acrooks@mica.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Budget Testimony, Defund BPD Now!

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Hello Ms. Currin,

My name is Anna Crooks and I am a resident of Baltimores 11th district. I'm writing to insist that city council cut funds from our corrupt, ineffective police department and to re-invest those funds back into community services. Historically, the city government has spent far more on police than on public health, homeless services, youth services, and other vital agencies. In fact, the Center For Popular Democracy has Baltimore coming in first on police spending per capita in 2020. I ask that city council cut Baltimore Police Departments Budget by 50% for the FY21

If you're at a loss on where to begin making cuts to the police budget, perhaps take a look at Service 622, Police Patrol. The FY21 budget includes \$354,000 for research analysts to staff four Baltimore Community Intelligence Centers (BCIC) to, among other things, analyze the "strategic deployment of police officers [and] case management services designed to prevent violence." No new funds for patrol analysis should be made until and unless the BPD responds to the FY2016 and FY2017 performance audit which noted that the "Audit Department requested documentation to support the actual amounts reported for percentage of time patrol officers spent on proactive policing during fiscal years 2017 and 2016 of 29% and 14%, respectively. BPD was unable to provide the records to support the actual amounts reported for fiscal years 2017 and 2016."

Or maybe the cuts could start with Service 621, the Administrative Bureau. The FY21 budget removes nine sworn positions (Operations Officer or Operations Manager) for a total cost savings of \$1.3 million. However, the same budget nearly doubles the number of police officers under this Bureau (from 104 to 200), an increase of \$7.3 million (nearly double the FY20 amount of \$8.3 million). We question why it is necessary to move 100 officers into the Administrative Bureau? What function(s) are these officers performing that could not be done by civilians? The movement of officers into administrative roles is especially concerning given that the FY21 budget reveals that the BPD has failed to meet several effectiveness targets: The percent of homicide cases cleared remains well below the target of 60%. Similarly, the percentage of violent cases cleared is also low — less than one in five in FY19.

I am certain you will be able to find many other services offered by BPD that can afford to be cut and a nearly infinite number of community services that would flourish with more funding. Divestment from police and 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.

I am urging you to make adjustments to the FY21 budget that reflect the voices and needs of Baltimore's citizens. 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 asking that city officials lobby intense care, attention and effort towards finding sustainable, longterm change.

Thank you,
Anna K Crooks
212 W. Madison St.
Baltimore, MD
June 12, 2020

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: K Mazurek <mazurek.kathleen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Budget: Invest in Education, Socio-Emotional Learning, and the Arts--Defund the Police

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Dear Councilwoman Currin,

My name is Kathleen Mazurek and I am a Baltimore City resident. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is more inappropriate than ever to propose increases to the Baltimore Police Department 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 social services and education programs, effective at the beginning of FY 2021.

Drastic cuts are being made to public education as we speak, and we need emergency funds to prevent layoffs and cuts to arts programs our students need and parents have desperately asked for to help process COVID trauma. Our school lost an Educational Specialist who provided an insurmountable amount of guidance and care for our students with special needs. It's time to defund the BPD's harmful expansion into homeless services, schools, special education support, youth services, mental health, and other social services where police don't belong. At this point, we have also onboarded distance learning that will connect families to needed social services, ESOL services, and plug in students to digital platforms to make them competitive with their peers in the county. We are also a district supported Socioemotional Learning site, using competencies based in CASEL research. This innovative district supported student and staff wholeness program sets us apart from our peers in a national way.

Baltimore City Public Schools has been leading the way since day one of distance learning. Divesting from education to feed an corrupt, ineffective police force is only feeding the school to prison pipeline. It is feeding into Baltimore's tragic narrative than actually choosing to rewrite it.

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, long term change.

We invest in the future we want to see. Defund the police department and invest in education, arts, and distance learning.

Thank you for your service and honor of Baltimore's citizens during this pandemic and necessary protests. We continue to set the standard for peaceful collective action.

Divesting from police funds and re-investing in distance learning and the arts would be absolutely transformative.

All my best,

Kathleen Mazurek

Dual-Certified Special Education/Fine Arts Educator

Baltimore City Public Schools

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: alexandramant8@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alexandra Mantilla <alexandramant8@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: CITY BUDGET PUBLIC TESTIMONY -- Cut BPD Funding

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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. Youth services, affordable housing, and homelessness prevention are all preventative forms of crime fighting that uplift communities socially as well as economically. Rather than investing in the police department, which already uses half a billion dollars and 25% of the budget, put this money towards programs that enrich the lives of citizens, rather than terrorizing them. The time is now to enact change.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Mantilla
10811 Will Painter Dr Owings Mills, MD 21117-5123 alexandramant8@gmail.com

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Ryan Jordan <Jordry@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:57 AM
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,
Ryan Jordan
3332 Gilman Terrace
Baltimore, MD 21211

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Scott Eisenberg <eisenberg215@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:44 AM
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,
Scott Eisenberg
1831 Covington St
Baltimore, MD 21230

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Amira Mahammedosman <aamahammedosman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:18 AM
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 BRESKO. 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,
Amira Mahammedosman
2639 Hampden Ave
Baltimore, MD 21211

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Kristin Baker <kristinlynnbaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:50 AM
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,
Kristin Baker
806 Evesham Ave
Baltimore, MD 21212

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Amanda Smit-Peters <amanda.j.smit@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:19 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: Commit to reallocate for social equity

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Amanda Smit-Peters, and I am a Baltimore resident. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it feels especially inappropriate to propose an increase to the BPD budget to \$545 million. I urge you to ethically reallocate this increase, as well as a meaningful portion of the remaining BPD budget, towards social services and education. 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. This while the Baltimore Police Department disproportionately targets nonwhite residents—from traffic stops to the use of lethal force.

It's time to staunch the expansion of the BPD's mandate into homeless services, schools, youth services, mental health, and other social services where an armed police force simply doesn'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 give intense care, attention and effort towards sustainable, long-term change.

Thank you,
Amanda Smit-Peters
805 S. East Avenue

Amanda Smit-Peters
410-409-8910
amanda.j.smit@gmail.com

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Samantha Wilkinson <swilkinson8979@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: concerned about the fiscal 2021 budget

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Hi,

I'm a resident of Baltimore City at 309 E Federal St, and I wanted to voice my concern for the proposed fiscal 2021 budget. I do not feel it is appropriate for the police budget to be increased. I feel that it is much better to re-allocate those funds back into community programs that are seeing budget cuts, and to focus on defunding the BPD. I would like to see my tax dollars contribute to enriching the community instead of strengthening the militarized police state.

Thank you!

Samantha Wilkinson

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Dulcey Lewis <dlewis@cityneighborshighschool.org>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Concerning the BPD Budget

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Good afternoon -

I'll try to make this short. I'm sure you've got a lot of these. I have lived and worked in Baltimore City for 10 years. I am a resident of Lauraville and a history teacher at City Neighbors High School. I am writing to you today to ask that you do whatever is in your power to address the demands of so, so many regarding the Baltimore Police Department. There is a better way. There must be a better way. It has *been* time for this city to address reality that our current method of using police to respond to social issues is *not* working. As a teacher, I witness every day the positive impact of using other methods (de-escalation, transformative / restorative justice, mediation, strong community development, family and individual therapy, social workers, etc.) to respond to issues that, were they to happen on the street, would end up being handled ineffectively and violently by the police. It is possible to create a world without armed militarized police terrorizing Black people and poor people. I am seeing, for the first time, *thousands* of people take up the issue of defunding the police. Even 5 years ago when Freddie Gray was murdered in our own city I did not see this many people taking such a clear stance on the subject. **This moment is ripe for us to address and correct this injustice.**

I am aware that the City Council can only cut funds in the budget, not reallocate funds in order to make this process complete. To that end, I urge you to do the following:

- Vote NO on the 13.5 million dollar increase to the BPD budget
- Keep DOJ compliance
- Keep police oversight committee
- Keep evidence testing
- CUT the \$10m in "unallocated appropriation"
- Cut \$29m allocated for asset management
- Cut \$750,000 for Public Affairs budget
- Cut \$200,000 regarding "transferring 1 Police Lieutenant from Casino Special Revenue" (like what?)
- Cut \$15m from recruitment
- cut \$40m from the Administrative Bureau and END the use of militarized SWAT units
- Cut K9, horse, helicopter budget
- Cut new equipment purchases
- Cut special weapons

Thank you for your time,
Dulcey Lewis

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Dulcey Lewis
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“The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves.” - Paolo Friere