

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

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**From:** Ashley Johnson <ashytj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:50 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Bernard C Jack Young  
**Cc:** City Council President; Cohen, Zeke (City Council); McCray, Danielle (City Council); Dorsey, Ryan (City Council); Henry, Bill (email); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council); Bullock, John (City Council); Reisinger, Edward (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Clarke, MaryPat (City Council)  
**Subject:** De-fund the Baltimore City Police and Redistribute to Social Services, Education & the Arts

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Dear Marguerite,

My name is Ashley T. Johnson, and I am a Baltimore City resident residing in Greenmount West. Amid 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 half of the remaining BPD budget towards social services, education, and the arts. Investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Safe Streets Baltimore, the Office of Employment and Development, the Department of Health, or Baltimore Office of Promotion & Arts 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 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,

Ashley T. Johnson  
430 E Oliver St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
[ashytj@gmail.com](mailto:ashytj@gmail.com)  
443-791-9942

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

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**From:** Rachel Hammer <rhammer210@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the Baltimore City Police Department

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Dear Ms. Currin,

My name is Rachel Hammer and I'm a current resident of Baltimore . I am writing about Baltimore City's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Baltimore City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Baltimore's Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from BPD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons ([Source: Popular Democracy](#)). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you as a staff member of our city's Budget Appropriation Committee to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Rachel Hammer

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**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** lauren adams <laurenfrancesadams@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the Baltimore Police

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Hello, I am writing to register my complaint about the current budget allocations for the Baltimore City Police Department.

I would like to see the monies re-allocated towards supporting community control of anti-violence and holistic well-being efforts. This looks like: Re-allocation of monies towards health care, housing the unhoused, mental health care, child care, education, dismantling food deserts, safe streets, garbage control, more trees and better urban food/garden initiatives, stray pet care. as well as restorative practices and mediation for community conflict.

I do not think the Baltimore Police Department, which has the largest per-capita budget in America, is protecting us. The consent decree from 2016 shows disturbing and harmful gendered and racialized trends enacted by the BPD that support oppression of me and my fellow citizens in this city.

I live on Guilford Avenue in Charles Village and have been a Baltimore resident for 8 years.

Thank You,  
Lauren Adams

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

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**From:** Hana Clemens <hanaclemens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 5:38 PM  
**To:** Bernard C Jack Young; Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** defund the bpd

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Hi all,

What you did was not enough. I urge you, as a member of Councilman Schleifer's district, to CUT SIGNIFICANT FUNDING TO THE BPD. they are KILLING US.

Thanks,  
Hana

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

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**From:** Emilie Rafal <emiliesrafal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:50 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the BPD

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Hello,

I am a Baltimore City resident and homeowner and I am writing to urge that you *do not* increase the budget for the Baltimore City Police Department from \$530 million to \$540 million. Instead, I ask that you reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget, divest interest in the PBD and instead invest 50% of PBD's 2020 operating budget in housing, healthcare, education, and other social services. It is vital that you reflect the voices of those you represent. Baltimore City's budget should be focused on community investment, not in further adding funding to a broken, brutal, and unfair police department.

Sincerely,

Emilie Rafal,  
1015 West Cross Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Kristina L <kris.lykke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:24 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the BPD

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Dear Ms. Currin,

As a Baltimore, MD 21218, resident, I encourage the Council to vote to defund the Baltimore Police Department. The amount of funding proposed for the BPD is absurd, especially when comparing it to the amount of funding allocated for all other departments and agencies, which need the money much more desperately than the police. We must provide more support for community efforts and organizations that work to end police brutality and violence.

It is important to stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and demand that our community and its Black residents stop being persecuted by a police force with a history of abuse and brutality. Reform is not the answer; only abolition is. Defunding the police is the first step we can take in protecting and strengthening our community.

Thank you,

Kristina Lykke

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

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**From:** Camille Wathne <camiwathne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:58 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); McCray, Danielle (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council)  
**Subject:** Defund the BPD to support other community wellbeing initiatives

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Dear Budget and Appropriations Committee,

My name is Camille Wathne and I'm a resident of Baltimore City. In the midst of a pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is unconscionable that city government is entertaining the possibility of increasing the Baltimore Police Department's budget from \$530 million to \$545 million. I urge you to listen to the will of Baltimore City residents and respond to the uprisings and movements sparking across our nation. Police departments have not and will not support community wellbeing.

I urge you to revise the proposed budget, divest from the BPD, and instead invest 50% of BPD's operating budget into our Black neighborhoods with a focus on housing, healthcare, education and other social services. It's time to Defund BPD -- this is long overdue and we demand a change. Please reflect the voices of those you represent.

Thank you,

Camille Wathne  
218 E Preston St.

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

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**From:** Brian Bagley <brianscottbagley@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** SouthernDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; SouthwesternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; WesternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; NorthwesternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; SoutheasternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; EasternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; NortheasternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; NorthernDistrict@baltimorepolice.org  
**Subject:** Defund the Police

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Hello,

My name is Brian and I am a resident of Randallstown. I am emailing today to demand that Baltimore City defund the police and reallocate funds to communities. The Baltimore Police Department has an extensive history of antiblack violence, as investigations in the wake of the 2015 Unrest by the Department of Justice revealed the long-running discriminatory policing practices that black neighborhoods are all too familiar with.

I demand that funds be allocated to social services that center community development, such as affordable housing, homeless prevention and support services, youth and trauma services, and responsible neighborhood development.

I demand that funds be allocated to social services such as youth and trauma services, affordable housing, homeless prevention and support services, and more. The public safety budget of \$980 million and intention to increase officers in Fiscal 2021 outlined in the Board of Estimates summary is unacceptable. Considering the historical and present acts of police brutality against the same community that police have sworn to protect, I demand that the preliminary budget be revised to reflect a redirection of allocations from law enforcement and to these vital social service programs.

Sincerely,  
Brian

Envoyé de mon iPhone



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

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**From:** Gracie Greenberg <gracie.l.greenberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 9:30 PM  
**To:** Doug Greenberg  
**Cc:** Henry, Bill (email); City Council President; McCray, Danielle (City Council); Costello, Eric (City Council); Schleifer, Isaac (City Council); Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Sneed, Shannon (City Council); Middleton, Sharon (City Council); Cohen, Zeke (City Council); Bernard C Jack Young  
**Subject:** Re: Defund the Police

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Much more eloquent than my emails, papal! Thank you for sharing! I love you!

On Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 10:49 AM Doug Greenberg <[doug.greenberg@gmail.com](mailto:doug.greenberg@gmail.com)> wrote:

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

--  
**Gracie Greenberg (she/her/hers)**  
[gracie.l.greenberg@gmail.com](mailto:gracie.l.greenberg@gmail.com)



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

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**From:** Clarke, MaryPat (City Council)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 5:02 PM  
**To:** Zoe  
**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** RE: Defund the police

Thanks for your advocacy, Ms. Cosner. 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)

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**From:** Zoe [mailto:zoe.cosner@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:53 PM

**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council) <Marguerite.Currin@baltimorecity.gov>

**Cc:** Clarke, MaryPat (City Council) <MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov>; Reisinger, Edward (City Council)

<EReisinger@baltimorecity.gov>; Stokes, Robert (City Council) <Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov>; Burnett, Kristerfer (City Council) <Kristerfer.Burnett@baltimorecity.gov>; Middleton, Sharon (City Council)

<Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov>; Henry, Bill (email) <Bill.Henry22@baltimorecity.gov>; McCray, Danielle (City

Council) <Danielle.McCray@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President <CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; Cohen,

Zeke (City Council) <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>; Dorsey, Ryan (City Council) <Ryan.Dorsey@baltimorecity.gov>;

Schleifer, Isaac (City Council) <Isaac.Schleifer@baltimorecity.gov>; Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council)

<Leon.Pinkett@baltimorecity.gov>; Bullock, John (City Council) <John.Bullock@baltimorecity.gov>; Costello, Eric (City

Council) <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>; Sneed, Shannon (City Council) <Shannon.Sneed@baltimorecity.gov>;

Bernard C Jack Young <BernardC.JackYoung@baltimorecity.gov>

**Subject:** Defund the police

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Dear Baltimore City Mayor and Council,

My name is Zoe Cosner and I am a Baltimore resident. 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 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 budget hearings for FY 2021 reflect the voices and needs of Baltimore's citizens. **DEFUND THE POLICE.**

Thank you,  
Zoe Cosner

2306 E Fairmount Ave  
Baltimore, MD, 221224

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

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**From:** Vivian Owens <tunja00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** SouthernDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; SouthwesternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; WesternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; NorthwesternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; SoutheasternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; EasternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; NortheasternDistrict@baltimorepolice.org; NorthernDistrict@baltimorepolice.org  
**Subject:** Defund the Police

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Hello,

My name is Vivian Owens and I am a resident of Baltimore County. I am emailing today to demand that Baltimore City defund the police and reallocate funds to communities. The Baltimore Police Department has an extensive history of antiblack violence, as investigations in the wake of the 2015 Unrest by the Department of Justice revealed the long-running discriminatory policing practices that black neighborhoods are all too familiar with.

I demand that funds be allocated to social services that center community development, such as affordable housing, homeless prevention and support services, youth and trauma services, and responsible neighborhood development.

I demand that funds be allocated to social services such as youth and trauma services, affordable housing, homeless prevention and support services, and more. The public safety budget of \$980 million and intention to increase officers in Fiscal 2021 outlined in the Board of Estimates summary is unacceptable. Considering the historical and present acts of police brutality against the same community that police have sworn to protect, I demand that the preliminary budget be revised to reflect a redirection of allocations from law enforcement and to these vital social service programs.

Sincerely,  
VO

Sent from my iPhone

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

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**From:** Zoe <zoe.cosner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** 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); Bernard C Jack Young  
**Subject:** Defund the police

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Dear Baltimore City Mayor and Council,

My name is Zoe Cosner and I am a Baltimore resident. 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 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 budget hearings for FY 2021 reflect the voices and needs of Baltimore's citizens.  
**DEFUND THE POLICE.**

Thank you,  
Zoe Cosner  
2306 E Fairmount Ave  
Baltimore, MD, 221224

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

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**From:** ezb <emzbo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:57 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:** Defund the Police

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Dear Mayor Young,

My name is Emma Bogdonoff and I reside in Baltimore City. In the middle of an unprecedented global pandemic & public outcry against police brutality, it feels wildly inappropriate to propose increases to the BPD budget from \$530 Million to \$545 million. I urge you to ethically reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget: divest interest in the BPD and invest 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 homelessness 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 demand sustainable, long term change and movement towards equity for all.

Thank you,  
Emma Bogdonoff

June 4, 2020





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

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**From:** Abby Fitzgibbon <abbyfitzgibbon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Divest from BPD, invest in communities

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Hello,

I am aware that there will be a budget meeting today and am horrified to hear about the proposed increase in budget for the Baltimore Police Department. We need to read the room here. Have we not learned our lesson yet? Police reform has not worked, as innocent Black lives are still being taken WHILE CAUGHT ON FILM with no consequences for the police responsible. Action has only been taken when citizens have FORCED action to be taken by gathering in the streets to voice our outrage.

I implore you to be a voice for your city, as our demands have gone unheard for far too long. We have an opportunity right here and right now to divest from police, and pour money into much needed programs for healthcare, housing, social work, etc. We need to stop punishing the crimes that are a direct result of communities being underfunded and ignored. Please take action by directing at least 50% of the proposed BPD budget AWAY from police, and into the community. We desperately need you.

Compassionately,  
Abby Fitzgibbon

--

Abby Fitzgibbon  
Artist | Writer | Musician  
[abbyfitzgibbon.com](http://abbyfitzgibbon.com)

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

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**From:** Abby Fitzgibbon <abbyfitzgibbon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** City Council President  
**Subject:** Divest BPD

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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,  
Abby Fitzgibbon

Sent from my iPhone

## Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

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**From:** Abdu Ali <astheylayforus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** Scott, Brandon (City Council); benardc.jackyoung@baltimorecity.gov; Bernard C Jack Young  
**Subject:** My Testimony / Baltimore's 2021 Budget Plan  
**Attachments:** A Letter to Baltimore.Abdu Ali (1).pdf

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Dear Mayor Jack Young; Council President Brandon Scott; and Members of the Baltimore City Council,

My name is Abdu Ali. I'm a music artist, writer, cultural worker, and the founder of as they lay, an art-making and programming initiative dedicated to nourishing emerging black artists in Baltimore City. For years, I've dedicated an abundance of time playing my part in transforming the Baltimore creative climate so that it can be more sustainable and inclusive for marginalized artists. Because of that, when I found out that in 2021 there will barely be any increase in economic support of the arts in our city's budget, I was extremely disappointed.

I grew up in the heart of Baltimore on Pennsylvania Avenue and Martin Luther King Blvd in the humble housing community of Orchard Mews. I went to School No. 22 a.k.a. Samuel L. Coldridge Taylor and Booker T. Washington Middle school where I was fortunate to learn about the legacy of the black arts in Baltimore City — from our city being a hot spot for world renowned jazz artists who performed at staple venues like the Royal Theatre to discovering that one of America's best comedians Mo'Nique is from charm city. On my way to school I would walk past the Billie Holiday statue on Pennsylvania Avenue. I'd go to Shake N' Bake to dance to Baltimore club music for hours, and when I got old enough, I'd go party all night at The Paradox to see people shake off til dusk. As a shy black little queer kid who grew up with a working class mom, the spirit of the arts and culture of our city not only gave me a sense of pride and legacy, it also helped empower me to be the artist I am today. From conquering stages like the Kennedy Center in D.C. to performing in underground clubs in Berlin, I was able to take my evolution of Baltimore club across the globe. I was always struck to find out how Baltimore's music legacy impacted many people across continents. In 2016 Thrillest named Baltimore as one of the best cities in the United States for artists to live, and in 2019 alongside John Waters and Joyce J. Scott I was interviewed by the New York Times in a piece that deemed the city as a cultural beacon.

Baltimore's arts and culture deserves to be invested in for our youth, for our emerging black artists and for our economy. Arts and culture help drive cities' economies while also attracting fresh energy. Earlier this year, Maryland Arts pointed out that our state generated over 25,000 arts jobs and over \$960 million in economic activity. One could argue that Maryland actually has a good amount of arts funding but the question is how much of that is going to Baltimore City and specifically black artists or art districts? For years, the city government only seems to invest in tourism and arts institutions have been doing the bare minimum to support natives. Yet at the same time, these institutions and city officials often exploit the labor and legacy that native artists create when it's convenient for them. There are barely any black owned art galleries, music venues or creative spaces in Baltimore. I'm excited to see a black arts district being developed in Penn North but one district will not be sufficient to support a black population that accounts for over 60% of the city.

We are demanding that the officials of our city increase the budget for the arts and culture, give artists easier

access to health insurance and an accessible request for proposal initiative that allocates commercial abandoned buildings at a very low costs to black artists so that we can turn them into future iconic art galleries, music venues, and multipurpose creative social spaces. We demand that you redistribute Baltimore Police funding and invest that money into creative communities while also ensuring that funding is in the hands of black artists. We demand to be acknowledged and respected by our own city government as one of the most creative cities in the world. We demand change!

Baltimore's Own,  
Abdu Ali from Park Heights

--

what's your legacy?  
Abdu Ali,  
creator of as they lay

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

---

**From:** Ada Pinkston <adapinkston@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:18 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Cc:** Bernard C Jack Young  
**Subject:** Re: It Is Time for Change

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Hello Marguerite,

I wasn't sure if you received my testimony.

I basically wanted to re-iterate how important it is to consider reallocating the budget of Baltimore City away from the police and towards more preventative measures to stop crime and inequity. Reallocating the budget would ensure that more public social programs have the resources that are necessary to be effective.

Every other night, I hear multiple gunshots in my living room. When Erricka Bridgeford does the Baltimore Ceasefire twice to three times a year, I do not hear gunshots. Imagine the type of work that she could do with an entire office that supports her?

Olu Butterfly, Ras Trae, and the artists of Wombworks all do incredibly important work using art as a tool to promote emotional healing, growth, and build essential conflict resolution skills with the youth that participate in their programs. Imagine what type of work they could do if they had staff to work in every single school in Baltimore City?

There is an intense need for mental health services and counseling in the pandemic. Creating spaces for holistic health is essential for any community. What if there was a Living Well Center in every district?

Warm Regards,  
Ada

On Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 3:18 PM Ada Pinkston <adapinkston@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Marguerite,

I am sure that you received the message below from many different citizens of Baltimore. I just highlighted my addition to the email below.

Thank you for your service,  
Ada

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

**From:** Ada Pinkston <adapinkston@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Sun, Jun 7, 2020 at 11:44 PM  
**Subject:** It Is Time for Change

To: <mayor@baltimorecity.gov>, <CouncilPresident@baltimorecity.gov>, <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>, <Danielle.McCray@baltimorecity.gov>, <Ryan.Dorsey@baltimorecity.gov>, <Bill.Henry@baltimorecity.gov>, <Isaac.Schleifer@baltimorecity.gov>, <Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov>, <Leon.Pinkett@baltimorecity.gov>, <Krisferfer.Burnett@baltimorecity.gov>, <John.Bullock@baltimorecity.gov>, <Edward.Reisinger@baltimorecity.gov>, <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>, <Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov>, <Shannon.Sneed@baltimorecity.gov>, <MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ada Pinkston and I am a Baltimore resident. Amid 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.

**Every other night, I hear multiple gunshots in my living room. When Erricka Bridgeford does the Baltimore Ceasefire twice to three times a year, I do not hear gunshots. Imagine the type of work that she could do with an entire office that supports her?**

**Olu Butterfly, Ras Trae, and the artists of Wombworks all do incredibly important work using art as a tool to promote emotional healing, growth, and build essential conflict resolution skills with the youth that participate in their programs. Imagine what type of work they could do if they had staff to work in every single school in Baltimore City?**

**There is an intense need for mental health services and counseling in the pandemic. Creating spaces for holistic health is essential for any community. What if there was a Living Well Center in every district?**

This will show your 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,  
Ada Pinkston

A resident of District 4  
An artist with studio space in District 12

--

Monument Lab 2020 Fellow  
VisArts Studio Fellow  
Halcyon Arts Lab Fellow Cohort 2

**IG @apinkstone**

"The new type of art institute cannot merely be an art museum as it has been until now, but no museum at all. The new type will be more like a power station, a producer of new energy."

Alexander Dorner (1893 - 1957)

adapinkston.com

--

Monument Lab 2020 Fellow  
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Alexander Dorner (1893 - 1957)

adapinkston.com

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

---

**From:** Alex Deranian <alexderanian@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:40 PM  
**Subject:** defundBPD

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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,  
Alex Deranian

Sent from my iPhone



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

---

**From:** Alexander D'Agostino <charmcitygnome@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Baltimore City Budget Written Testimony

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Dear Marguerite Currin,

My name is Alexander D'Agostino and I am a Baltimore resident. 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. 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,  
Alexander D'Agostino  
June 12, 2020

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Alison Penning <alison.penning@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:58 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Baltimore Budget

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a city resident in Hampden. I was recently appalled to learn that Baltimore spends MORE on its police department than any other city in the country. Yet our homeless are unhoused, our kids wear winter coats inside their classrooms, and we can't have a red line transit system to move people across our city from east to west. Put the money where the people's needs are!

I beg that you hear the voices of current residents who are saying: Enough is enough! Spend the funds to increase the health and wealth of city residents.

Respectfully,  
Alison Penning  
1303 Cox St, Baltimore, MD 21211

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

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**From:** Allison Fischbach <allison.e.fischbach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Testimony to Budget Appropriations Committee FY2021

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Dear Eric Costello,

My name is Allison Fischbach, residents of 21218. Annual increases to the BPD budget have not resulted in appreciably decreased crime rates in over a decade. Reactionary action such as increasing police budgets to combat crime neglects to address the underlying forces that cause violence - mainly, economic depression, poverty, housing and food instability, and low educational opportunities. Increased funding and increased force does not make our communities safer, and it does not meet the basic human needs that many city residents lack.

I urge you to ethically reallocate the Baltimore City Expense Budget, by divesting from the BPD and investing in social services and education programs effective for FY2021. Investment in programs such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Safe Streets Baltimore, and the Office of Employment and Development or the Department of Health, shows a commitment to communities and to addressing the underlying needs of residents who have been neglected by their government. All Baltimore residents deserve the means to thrive.

Historically, the city has spent far more on police than on public health, homeless services, youth services, and other social service agencies. In the midst of this pandemic and public outcry against police brutality, it is more inappropriate than ever to propose an increase to the BPD budget. It is time to support our residents with an operational social safety net designed to handle human needs without force or violence, and to support racial and economic justice in Baltimore.

I am writing to insist that the BBMR budget hearings for FY2021 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,  
Allison Fischbach  
June 12, 2020

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-

Allison E. Fischbach

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

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**From:** Alyssa Gorecki <alyssagorecki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** BPD Budget hearing

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Hello, my name is Alyssa and I am a resident of district 11. BPDs unbridled access to community resources and their unquestioned authority must end. They act as a disruptive and violent force, specifically in Black communities and neighborhoods, all while the budget used to fund them actively keeps funds away from programs which, with proper funding, would act as a positive, restorative force in Black communities. It is imperative that we as a city move forward to divest from the BPD, reallocate 50% of BPD's 2020 operating budget to be invested in Baltimore's Black communities, abolish the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights, and gain City control of the BPD.

We must move forward with a budget model that nurtures and builds up Baltimore's Black communities, rather than one that instills fear and violence.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Gorecki

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

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**From:** Amanda Paige <amandarubypaige@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** Pinkett, Leon2 (City Council); City Council President  
**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** Re: Divest from the BPD

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Mssrs. Scott and Pinkett:

I am greatly dismayed by your decision last night to vote against council member Ryan Dorsey's amendment to the BPD budget that would have defunded drug enforcement by police. As Mr. Dorsey said, the drug war is really a war on black people. At this pivotal moment in our collective history, you were in a position to end that war - and you chose to perpetuate violence against our communities instead.

The cuts that were made, to the marine and mounted divisions, are largely meaningless and symbolic. This is not what we mean when we say #DefundThePolice. You must go further.

You are now the two presumptive leaders of our city. As presumptive mayor-elect and city council president-elect, it is your duty to show courage and leadership. I hope in the future you use your positions of power to effect meaningful change.

Please, please, in the future, defund the police. We are not going away. Heed our calls.

Amanda R. Paige, Esq.  
1211 Union Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21211

On Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 1:10 PM Amanda Paige <amandarubypaige@gmail.com> wrote:  
Council President Brandon M. Scott & Leon Pinkett:

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. I also call on the council to implement extensive cuts to the BPD operating budget.

Sincerely,  
Amanda R. Paige

--  
*Amanda Ruby Paige, Esq.*  
1211 Union Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
(410) 940-9720

[Instagram](#) . [Facebook](#)

--  
*Amanda Ruby Paige, Esq.*  
1211 Union Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
(410) 940-9720

[Instagram](#) . [Facebook](#) . [Twitter](#)

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

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**From:** Amber Doherty <amber.doherty01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 3:58 PM  
**To:** Stokes, Robert (City Council); Currin, Marguerite (City Council); City Council President  
**Subject:** BPD Budget hearing

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Good afternoon!

My name is Amber Doherty, I live and work in the 12th district. I am concerned with over-policing in Baltimore and encourage you to consider defunding our police force.

Cities like Minneapolis and Los Angeles are looking at strategies around reducing police presence and responsibilities while re-allocating resources to social programs that better address the causes of crime and violence.

Thank you for what you do for the City! Robert. I appreciate your work in Jonestown and congratulations to both you & Brandon on your (re)elections!! This could be a real positive shift for Baltimore!

Amber





Dear Mayor Jack Young; Council President Brandon Scott; and Members of the Baltimore City Council,

My name is Abdu Ali. I'm a music artist, writer, cultural worker, and the founder of *as they lay*, an art-making and programming initiative dedicated to nourishing emerging black artists in Baltimore City. For years, I've dedicated an abundance of time playing my part in transforming the Baltimore creative climate so that it can be more sustainable and inclusive for marginalized artists. Because of that, when I found out that in 2021 there will barely be any increase in economic support of the arts in our city's budget, I was extremely disappointed.

I grew up in the heart of Baltimore on Pennsylvania Avenue and Martin Luther King Blvd in the humble housing community of Orchard Mews. I went to School No. 22 a.k.a. Samuel L. Coldridge Taylor and Booker T. Washington Middle school where I was fortunate to learn about the legacy of the black arts in Baltimore City — from our city being a hot spot for world renowned jazz artists who performed at staple venues like the Royal Theatre to discovering that one of America's best comedians Mo'Nique is from charm city. On my way to school I would walk past the Billie Holiday statue on Pennsylvania Avenue, I'd go to Shake N' Bake to dance to Baltimore club music for hours, and when I got old enough, I'd go party all night at The Paradox to see people shake off til dusk. As a shy black little queer kid who grew up with a working class mom, the spirit of the arts and culture of our city not only gave me a sense of pride and legacy, it also helped empower me to be the artist I am today. From conquering stages like the Kennedy Center in D.C. to performing in underground clubs in Berlin, I was able to take my evolution of Baltimore club across the globe. I was always struck to find out how Baltimore's music legacy impacted many people across continents. In 2016 *Thrillest* named Baltimore as one of the best cities in the United States for artists to live, and in 2019 alongside John Waters and Joyce J. Scott I was interviewed by the *New York Times* in a piece that deemed the city as a cultural beacon.

Baltimore's arts and culture deserves to be invested in for our youth, for our emerging black artists and for our economy. Arts and culture help drive cities' economies while also attracting fresh energy. Earlier this year, Maryland Arts pointed out that our state generated over 25,000 arts jobs and over \$960 million in economic activity. One could argue that Maryland actually has a good amount of arts funding but the question is how much of that is going to Baltimore City and specifically black artists or art districts? For years, the city government only seems to invest in tourism and arts institutions have been doing the bare minimum to support natives. Yet at the same time, these institutions and city officials often exploit the labor and legacy that native artists create when it's convenient for them. There are barely any black owned art galleries, music venues or creative spaces in Baltimore. I'm excited to see a black arts district being developed in Penn North but one district will not be sufficient to support a black population that accounts for over 60% of the city.

We are demanding that the officials of our city increase the budget for the arts and culture, give artists easier access to health insurance and an accessible request for proposal initiative that

allocates commercial abandoned buildings at a very low costs to black artists so that we can turn them into future iconic art galleries, music venues, and multipurpose creative social spaces. We demand that you redistribute Baltimore Police funding and invest that money into creative communities while also ensuring that funding is in the hands of black artists. We demand to be acknowledged and respected by our own city government as one of the most creative cities in the world. We demand change!

Baltimore's Own,  
Abdu Ali from Park Heights

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

---

**From:** Anastasia Kupstas <akupstas5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** A Proposal for the BPD Budget

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Dear Ms. Currie,

My name is Anastasia Kupstas and I am a Baltimore resident. I'm emailing you today to ask you to support efforts to defund the Baltimore Police Department. As we've seen both in our own city and in cities across the country, the police do very little to increase public safety and often actually create more danger in the communities they patrol. We also see that the safest communities do not have the most police, but rather are neighborhoods like suburbs that have more investment in community programs, education, and housing. If we could use some of the excessive amount of money we spend on policing on community building programs instead, in more underserved neighborhoods, we could begin to build the kinds of public safety that we already see in wealthier areas.

I know that you have been receiving many messages like this one. I hope that rather than view it as a nuisance, you choose recognize that the popularity of this idea means that we ought to actually begin to implement it. This is one of the tenants of democracy, after all.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Anastasia Kupstas

**Currin, Marguerite (City Council)**

---

**From:** Andrew Jhpiego <andrewjhpiego@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Currin, Marguerite (City Council)  
**Subject:** reduce police budget by 50%

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Hi,

My name is Andrew and I live in charles village. I love this city and demand that the police budget for FY21 be reduced by at least 50%. The funds should be diverted to programs running in and by Black communities.

The injustice and broken systems must end now.

Thank you,  
Andrew