

May 26, 2021

Dear City Council,

In reference to the Fiscal 2022 budget, I ask that 100 million dollars be cut from BPD's budget. The constant growth of BPD's budget has not correlated into a decrease in crime or harm and has only fed surveillance and police violence in Black and brown communities.

Instead, I ask that \$70 million dollars be allocated to support quality, affordable housing, high-quality public education, universal healthcare, jobs, a universal basic income, and community programs. As someone who works in a Baltimore City Public School, I have seen how the pandemic has economically devastated Baltimore families, but also emotionally and educationally taken a huge toll on students. Increased dollars need to be spent on supporting our Community Schools in Baltimore City more than ever, as Community Schools work to meet the needs of families far beyond the academic, from financial, housing, food and much more.

Furthermore, I ask for a \$30 million dollar investment into reimaging public safety with the creation of a Community Wellness trust fund, to be governed through a participatory budgeting process. Baltimoreans are more than capable of identifying what public safety without increased police presence or surveillance tools looks like for them.

And while we are moving in the right direction on this issue, I ask that you commit to removing police entirely from responses to mental health distress, substance use, sex work, homelessness, and other quality-of-life issues. We demand Baltimore create an alternative to 911 that does not dispatch police to connect people in crisis with the mental health, housing, treatment and/or harm reduction resources they need to live with dignity.

Finally I would ask you to bring your attention to the case of Keith Davis Jr. On May 13, 2021, Keith Davis Jr. was granted a new trial, making way for him to be tried **a fifth** time. Please call on Marilyn Mosby and the Baltimore State's Attorney Office to drop the charges against Keith Davis Jr. and not continue with a fifth trial.

There have been glaring problems with the case and Keith has maintained his innocence throughout, being repeatedly tried. These trials have also cost taxpayers over a million dollars. Baltimore residents are directly paying for the unjust prosecution of a police brutality victim. As a taxpayer I challenge this abuse of power and understand that silence implicates us all.

Thank you,

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