

Dear City Council Members,

I am testifying as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore to ask that you **divest \$100M** from the over-half-billion-dollar Baltimore Police Department budget and encourage the Mayor to redirect those funds to transparent and accountable community-led solutions that address the root causes of crime. In addition, I ask that you advocate for the creation of a trust that communities can dictate where and how the money is reinvested.

I have lived in the Baltimore area for 5 years and currently work in the city. I am a church member and a volunteer at several Baltimore-based non-profits. These non-profits focus on improving life in our city by providing arts education, hunger relief, and job training. SURJ works in collaboration with the Campaign for Justice, Safety, and Jobs.

Baltimore City has budgeted almost \$900 to the BPD per city resident, well above every major city in the country. We should be leading the country in investing in communities and community services, not in police spending per resident. Despite the staggering sums for the BPD, policing does not address the root causes of crime and violence in the city. I am disturbed that our elected officials allocate enormous amounts of taxpayer dollars to policing, year after year, and expect different results in safety and violence from the last year. Why do you continue to pursue a policy that has not been shown to be effective?

It is for these reasons that I ask you to **divest \$100M** from the Baltimore Police Department budget and redirect those funds to transparent and accountable community-led solutions that address the root causes of crime, including a trust that communities can dictate where and how the money is reinvested.

Finally, we believe that after over a million dollars spent, two mistrials, and two overturned guilty verdicts, that the relentless over-prosecution of Keith Davis Jr. has not made this city safer and only wasted precious resources that could be use saving the lives of many Baltimoreans, rather than ruining the life of one man and his family. We ask you do everything in your power to 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.

Thank you for your time.

Arielle Juberg
Worker in Baltimore City
SURJ Baltimore