

5/26/21

Dear Baltimore City Councilpeople:

Thank you for your time. My name is Suzanne Doogan. I am an educator from District 43. I urge you to allocate our city's budget away from BPD. Please defund BPD and put those funds directly into the hands of Black communities.

It is up to **you** to do right by the people of Baltimore, your constituents and neighbors, and to show you truly value Baltimore lives, especially those of my Black and Brown neighbors. Defund the Baltimore City police **now**, so that no more Baltimore City residents will lose their lives to BPD officers, like Tyrone West, or be violently taken away from their families like Keith Davis. Defund the police now, so that my students will have access to resources and structures that will get at the *root* of lessening crime, rather than live their lives in fear of officers. Defund the police so that families and communities are no longer ripped apart. We have seen that policing does not lessen crime. In many cases, more policed areas indeed have *more* crime. Policing is a form of surveillance, of violence, and a conduit towards arbitrary punishment. Policing is not a structural solution for a safer or more healthful community. Policing is unimaginative, and it is deadly. Defund the police, so that Baltimore residents can imagine a more beautiful and expansive future. We can do better.

Thank you for your attention,
Suzanne Doogan