

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 am speaking here today as a resident of Greenmount West and a lifelong Baltimorean. I am also a healthcare professional and have seen first-hand how racial disparities and systemic oppression negatively affect health outcomes in communities of color. In addition to work with SURJ, I am an active member of my community association. SURJ works in collaboration with the Campaign for Justice, Safety, and Jobs.

Instead of giving additional funding for police to expand technology and personnel to over-police already over-policed communities, money should be invested in after-school programs, crisis centers that help those who need help, felony-diversion initiatives, youth centers and many more community-centered programs that will actually address public safety and developmental community concerns.

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.

Additionally, as a member of SURJ Baltimore I stand in solidarity with Baltimore Safe Haven in their demands for financial support for LGBTQ folks experiencing homelessness, access to a building from the city, grant funds for trans-led orgs to provide direct services, and the creation of an LGBTQ office in city hall.

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.

Nathan Rehr
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SURJ Baltimore