

Stegman, Matthew

From: Julie M <julietm.3348@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:41 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Taxpayer's Night - May 27th

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Good Evening,

I am writing regarding the Taxpayer event on Thursday but I am deeply concerned about the proposed 2022 Baltimore budget and firmly believe that we should be investing in housing, healthcare, education and other community based solutions over policing. For that reason, I am writing in support of and to uplift the demands of Organizing Black to defund & divest from BPD (100 million dollar cut), create a community wellness trust fund (30 million, governed by a community participatory process), invest into Black communities (70 million dollars), and remove police entirely from responses of mental health distress, substance use, sex work, homelessness, and other quality of life issues.

Growth in the police budget has not and will not lead to a decrease in harm or crime and has only led to surveillance and police violence toward black and brown communities. All Baltimoreans deserve to live with dignity and free of police terror and surveillance. That's why we must divest from policing and shift those funds to proven solutions like high quality & affordable healthcare, education, housing, jobs, universal basic income and community programs.

Sincerely,
Julie