

Members of the Baltimore City Council,

As a founding member of Scan the Police, my colleagues and I have listened to the Baltimore City Police Department's failure to live up to its own propaganda over the last year. Our conclusion has been that this department — 80% of which does not live in Baltimore City, with 10% of that 80% not living in Maryland at all — does not have Baltimore's best interests at heart.

Scan the Police shares Organizing Black's demands:

1. We demand the defunding of the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD).
2. We demand the creation of a Community Wellness trust fund.
3. We demand investment into Black communities.
4. We demand the removal of police entirely from responses to mental health distress, substance use, sex work, homelessness, and other quality-of-life issues.

Most calls police officers in Baltimore say they are responding to are business checks, which are actually proactive attempts by officers to go around and observe businesses on their patrols. They also perform a nearly equal number of vehicle stops, which are different from traffic stops in that the stops are not performed for any specific reason; they are largely "investigative stops," which, when performed on the street, have been known as stop and frisks. When Baltimore City police officers do perform traffic stops, they have been required to turn over the racial demographics of those stops to the state since 2013 and, eight years later, have still failed to do so. We also repeatedly hear officers responding to possible overdoses without naloxone — and without calling for medical assistance until after they arrive.

On Sunday, April 18th, the day before the six-year anniversary of Freddie Gray's death from injuries sustained following police officers brutally attacking him, we heard cops joke about a call about a woman's partner stabbing her with a screwdriver. One cop said, "There used to be such a thing as marriage counseling; now they just call the cops on their spouse," while another cop laughed and responded, "And they want to defund us."

This is not an isolated incident. The police in Baltimore City are not protecting Baltimore residents — they are mocking us.

In June 2015, Keith Davis, Jr., was misidentified as a robbery suspect by four BPD officers who chased him into an enclosed garage and shot at him dozens of times. He was acquitted of the robbery after a trial in which the **robbery victim testified that Keith wasn't the person who had committed it**. The police and SAO Marilyn Mosby's office then claimed that a gun found near Keith in that garage had been used to murder Kevin Jones several hours earlier that same day.

It was determined that:

- **The gun was never fired that day.**
- **There is no DNA link between Keith Davis Jr. and Kevin Jones.**
- **One of the officers who shot Keith was even investigated by the FBI for interstate drug trafficking.**

Despite these glaring problems with the case, Marilyn Mosby has chosen to repeatedly prosecute him. These trials have resulted in two mistrials and two overturned guilty verdicts. These trials have also cost taxpayers over a million dollars without being able to render an ounce of justice. From the cost of judges, witnesses, DNA (which was outsourced by the state), police officers, court clerks, bailiffs, law clerks, utilities and operations, and juror

payments - Baltimore residents are directly paying for the unjust prosecution of a police brutality victim. Taxpayers must challenge this abuse of power and understand that silence implicates us all.

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.

None of this is protecting anyone, and any other agency committing acts that are remotely as negligent would have been defunded a long time ago. Please defund the Baltimore City Police Department and invest in housing our neighbors and building up Black communities the city has long divested from.

Thank you,
Caitlin Goldblatt, District 12 Resident