

Dear City Council,

The taxpayers of Baltimore pay into a system that, as often as not, uses our public funds not to support and uplift the city and its citizens, but instead to continually reinvest in a carceral system that bills itself as progressive while actively perpetuating civic and social stagnation.

Whether that be paying more per capita for one of the most corrupt, violent, and ineffectual police forces in the nation, or allowing Baltimore SAO to perpetuate further violence on our neighbors through pretrial incarceration and malicious prosecution, we deserve better.

In possibly the most egregious example of this malignant wastefulness, it has so far cost the City of Baltimore an estimated \$1.2 million to try Keith Davis Jr. For comparison, \$1.25 million is half the City's maternal health and child health budget. This is an especially potent example of misaligned priorities in a city with proven medical apartheid, knowing that the US has some of the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world—a preventable crisis that, as with policing and prosecution, disproportionately impacts our Black neighbors.

Instead of 5 trials for #KeithDavisJr, the City could have fully funded their share of Headstart (\$428K) AND the Youth and Adult Sports Program (\$828K). How will a 6th trial stack up to the Youth and Trauma Services budget (\$830K)? In a world where study after study shows the proven, long term, community-wide benefits of such programs, how does ANY single prosecution compare to the value of these programs to our citizens? Baltimore deserves better.

The background of Keith's case is notably awful, in large part because it condenses and magnifies a litany of everyday injustices inflicted on Baltimoreans, especially Baltimoreans of color, every day: from police violence and gross misconduct, to prosecutorial slander, and through to the persistent disregard for the ongoing advocacy and clearly stated will of the people of Baltimore in this matter. Countless families face these issues in some way. The Davis family experiences them all and more, and will continue to do so every day until Keith is free.

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 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.

We demand more appropriate budgetary priorities that serve all Baltimoreans as citizens, neighbors, and taxpayers.

Free Keith Davis Jr.

Thank you,

Sharyn Blum