

Written Testimony for City Budget FY22
Position: Support with Amendments

Dear Councilmembers,

I am a registered voter in the Remington neighborhood submitting testimony on the proposed city budget. A \$27 million *increase* in the city police budget and a \$12 million decrease to the city school budget is unacceptable.

I request that you adopt the following demands communicated by the Organizing Black organization:

Defund the Baltimore City Police Department. We demand that 100 million dollars be cut from BPD's budget. The constant growth of BPD's budget has not correlated into a decrease in crime or harm and has only fed surveillance and police violence in Black and brown communities.

Create a Community Wellness trust fund. We demand a \$30 million dollar investment into reimaging public safety trust fund to be governed through a participatory budgeting process. Baltimoreans are more than capable of identifying what public safety without increased police presence or surveillance tools looks like for them.

Invest in Black communities. We demand that \$70 million dollars be allocated to support quality, affordable housing, high-quality public education, universal healthcare, jobs, a universal basic income, and community programs.

Remove police entirely from responses to mental health distress, substance use, sex work, homelessness, and other quality-of-life issues. We demand Baltimore create an alternative to 911 that does not dispatch police to connect people in crisis with the mental health, housing, treatment and/or harm reduction resources they need to live with dignity.

Thank you!

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