

Stegman, Matthew

From: Geoff Cooper <gcooper08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Defund BPD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Baltimore City IT Network Systems.

Reminder: DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. Report any suspicious activities using the Report Phishing Email Button, or by emailing to Phishing@baltimorecity.gov

Dear Members of the City Council and Mayor Scott,

As a citizen of Baltimore, and resident of Hampden, I call upon the City Council and the Mayor's Office to do your jobs and reallocate resources away from the bloated and unnecessary police budget and into city programs that would actually prevent crime, keep our people safe, prevent unnecessary killings by the police, and support struggling communities, as many of you promised to do once elected.

We are tired of excuses from the City Council and Mayor's Office and we are tired of elected officials using the rhetoric of Black Lives Matter and the defund movement for purely performative political ends that are completely divorced from structural policy changes and devoid of moral clarity.

We implore you to side with the People of Baltimore for once, rather than the police unions, and make significant cuts to the police budget that will finally start our city on a path of healing, empowerment, and solidarity or we will be forced to organize and find replacements in the next election cycle who will actually get the job done.

In Solidarity with the People of Baltimore,

Geoff Cooper