

I've been a resident of Baltimore for 20 years, for my entire working life and witnessed the challenges that this city faces. Baltimore has such pride in its community leaders and leadership as we work to do the difficult work of dismantling institutionalized racism- particularly how it affects the economic circumstances of Baltimore citizens, and their opportunities for stable housing, good education, and just treatment under the law.

I'm one of many citizens that objects to the disproportionate funding of police to tackle Baltimore's issues. In the preliminary FY22 budget BDF stands to be apportioned 26% of the general fund.

I'm one of many citizens that cannot understand why this number would outrank community investment priorities, such as funding for public schools (14%), housing and development (2%), substance abuse and mental health (0.1%), recreation and parks (2%) and the Office of Homeless Services (1%).

Fund the public welfare and you will see less of the desperation that results in crime. Assist the community-led groups which fill the gaps of city government policy. We the citizens are working to develop affordable housing and promote harm reduction techniques, we teach our children and clean our neighborhoods, we distribute food to the hungry. Please reallocate the police budget to help us in our work.

Thank you,

Sarah Jacklin
Market Center Resident