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**Subject:** FW: bill 21-0050R testimony  
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For the bill file on 21-0050R

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Hello,

This is my written testimony in support of bill 21-0050R.

My name is Divya Anantharaman. I have worked with the Walters' Art Museum staff during the annual Baltimore Taxidermy Open which was held at the Walters, I've also lectured there, and have donated one of my pieces to the Walters Art Museum. I was always met with respect and professionalism, thanks to the amazing staff, who were very helpful and sincere. You could tell that everyone cared about the work they do each day.

So I found it extremely disappointing to learn that the Walters Art Museum and its director did not take a more progressive approach when the workers at the Walters formed their union. It's extremely important that all workers have a voice in the decision making process. As a queer woman of color, I know that very few pieces at the Walters have been contributions from people like me-both currently and historically. This is the case with most museums. But the Walters has an opportunity to set an example by not just acquiring works from artists with underrepresented identities, but by allowing their staff to organize. Unions lift all voices, but women and BIPOC find more equality in the workplace when we have a union.

I believe that City Council should do everything in its power to ensure that the workers at

the Walters Art Museum have a union. I also call on the Walters Art Museum to be a better institution, and live up to their mission.

Thanks,

Divya Anantharaman

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**Divya Anantharaman**

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