

The Geneva Condominium
3405 Greenway
Baltimore, MD 21218

September 23, 2022

To: The Honorable Nick Mosby, President, Baltimore City Council; The Honorable Odette Ramos; The Honorable Antonio Glover; The Honorable Zeke Cohen; The Honorable Kristerfer Burnett; The Honorable Ryan Dorsey

RE: Letter of Support for JH PD (City Council Resolution 22-0132R)

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the residents of the Geneva Condominium bordering JHU's Homewood campus, we're writing to express our support for the JH Police Department and for its Memorandum of Understanding with the BPD. One of our members attended JHU's Town Hall meeting on 9/22 hoping to express this support in person, but was distressed to see unruly, disrespectful, and uninformed behavior by a radical faction opposing the JH PD shut down discussion.

The Geneva contains 33 units and over 50 residents ranging in age from pre-schoolers to seniors in their 90s. Board members have informally canvassed residents and have yet to find anyone who is opposed to the JH PD or the MOU. Indeed, Genevans are very grateful for the efforts of JHU in attempting to enhance safety in the Homewood campus area.

We hope the Council will accord no weight to the shrill but empty criticisms of the opponents of the JH PD. While everyone supports treating the "root causes" of crime in the long term, it's clear that efficient policing is necessary to enhance citizen safety *now*. For the last seven-plus years, Baltimore has suffered from under-policing (a result of under-staffing and our experiment with de-prosecution), and the results have been horrific, including a homicide rate that has risen 50% above that in the previous seven years. Tragically, this toll has been borne disproportionately by Black Baltimoreans.

We're pleased that Johns Hopkins is creating a well-trained police department that can focus on the needs of the university, hospital, and contiguous communities. We believe the JH PD will improve safety in and around the Homewood campus, reduce the load on the over-stretched BPD, and help revive our fair city.

Sincerely,

Sheila Garrity, Steven King, Gas Lewis, Tony Scarlatta, and Steve Walters

Elected members of the Geneva Condominium Board

Cc: The Honorable Yitzy Schleifer, Chair, Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee; The Honorable Mark Conway; The Honorable Eric Costello; The Honorable Sharon Green Middleton; The Honorable James Torrence