



Johns Hopkins University Statement on Legislation to Establish a University Police Department

Johns Hopkins strongly supports legislation [SB 1241 / HB 1803] pending in the Maryland General Assembly that would allow Johns Hopkins University to establish a university police department following extensive consultation with campus and community members. This consultation would be an essential component of the process for developing a public memorandum of understanding between Johns Hopkins and the City of Baltimore respecting the governance and operation of the sworn police force.

Since the draft bill was filed, it has been amended substantially to respond to input received over the last several weeks from campus stakeholders, elected officials, security experts, community groups, and individual neighbors.

Highlights of the amended legislation include:

- A fully open and consultative process for developing the MOU, including a public review and comment period, and extensive community input;
- The adoption of enumerated policies, practices, and training to ensure constitutional, community-oriented policing, including on matters such as impartial and non-discriminatory policing, de-escalation and appropriate use of force, and sound approaches to individuals with mental health or other challenges;
- The filing of an annual report to the general public and to city and state authorities, which will include data and demographic information regarding the size of the department, stops, arrests, use of force, and complaints against officers;
- The creation of a police advisory board composed of students, faculty, staff, and community members, with an annual open meeting, to provide oversight on university police policies and procedures;
- The promotion of diverse and local hiring and recruitment of sworn officers.

Further, the bill now clearly limits the jurisdiction of the university police force to our campuses at Homewood, Peabody and East Baltimore.

Johns Hopkins believes that this amended legislative framework will ensure that we are able to create a best-in-class university police department that stands as a model for other institutions. Through a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and meaningful partnerships with our broad campus communities, the new police department will reflect and embody contemporary best practices in community policing, respond to the unique needs of our community, uphold the core values of our institution, and contribute to the improved safety and security of our community.