



Defund Police and Invest in Black and Brown Communities

Policing must be reimaged.

Policing as we know it does not work. Police do not prevent or deter crime, and they often respond in a violent manner. Black and Brown communities are facing excessive, brutal and violent policing. The role of police in our society is far too expansive.

Policing is the problem. Investing more money into policing cannot be the solution.

It is imperative that money is divested from police and invested in Black and Brown communities. For too long, investment in policing has been considered a solution to issues of police violence and general police misconduct. However, investing more money into law enforcement will do nothing to curb long-standing issues of police misconduct, as it does little to address the existence of officers who commit misconduct without consequence and the lack of accountability measures that exist for victims of law enforcement to obtain justice. Police must be defunded rather than given even more resources to terrorize communities.

Investment in the community will center the needs of the community.

Policing should be entrenched in principles of community trust, equity, and accountability. Black and Brown people, and all Baltimoreans deserve respect and the ability to live long and healthy lives. They deserve infrastructural investment in their community rather than violence at the result of policing. Instead of giving additional funding for police to expand technology and personnel to over-police already over-policed communities, money should be invested in after-school programs, crisis centers that help those who need help, felony-diversion initiatives, youth centers and many more community-centered programs that will actually address public safety and developmental community concerns.

What can be done?

\$100M must be divested from BPD and redirected towards transparent and accountable community-led solutions that actually address public safety concerns. A 20M trust must be created that will allow communities to have input