



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PEACE & Baltimore City Community Leaders Speak Out Against Self-Serving Greed of Baltimore City Council Plan for Pensions**

*Baltimore City Council to Vote to Give Themselves Lifelong Pensions After Only 8 Years of Service in Their Part-time Jobs*

**BALTIMORE, MD** – The People for Elected Accountability & Civic Engagement (PEACE) today announced its opposition to the self-serving, greed inspired and corrupt action by the Baltimore City Council to introduce and vote on a bill that would decrease the years of service to make themselves eligible for lifelong pensions after only 8 years of service in their part-time jobs – to be reduced from the previous requirement of 12 years of service.

“This brazenly corrupt, self-serving move by the Baltimore City Council is the epitome of greed,” said Jovani Patterson, Chairman, PEACE. “If the council moves forward and approves this outrageous action, it will cost the citizens of Baltimore City millions of dollars each and every year in money that could be better spent fighting crime, cleaning up our city, improving our city’s infrastructure and helping our underserved communities.”

The self-serving measure was proposed by Council President Nick Mosby in anticipation of Question K passing to create term limits in Baltimore City for elected officials, just days before voters headed to the polls on November 8, 2022.

This stands in stark contrast to the vote by the Baltimore City Council in the past to do exactly the opposite and extend the years for Baltimore City’s police and firefighters from 20 years to 25 years of service for those brave first responders to be eligible for a pension.

Baltimore's Police Union President Mike Mancuso shared two letters in the days following the initial self-serving vote by the Baltimore City Council on their own pension after just 8 years of service, calling it "one of the most egregious privileged class moves in the history of Baltimore."

“We will not stand by and idly watch this money grab and corruption take place without fighting back on behalf of the citizens of Baltimore,” said Jovani Patterson. “On behalf of PEACE, we pledge today that if this bill is approved and moves forward, we will work with the voters of Baltimore City to gather the necessary signatures required to not only reverse this pension plan in the 2024 election, but also possibly place a ballot issue for voters to support to eliminate pensions altogether for Baltimore City Council members as part of their part-time jobs.”

“Additionally, as we work to put an end to corrupt, self-serving politicians in Baltimore City who prioritize their own profit and greed over the needs of the citizens they were elected to serve, PEACE pledges to work to identify and support a new generation of leaders that will challenge every city council member that votes to support this corrupt legislation in the next general election,” added Patterson. “We look forward to continuing our vitally important work in cooperation with the concerned citizens of Baltimore to fight for additional reforms and to embrace creative ideas and solutions from new leaders in Baltimore City. This is just the beginning of our collective work as we give power back to the people.”

The proposed pension bill was approved by the Baltimore City Council in two initial votes on November 3 and November 7, 2022. The bill now faces one final vote by the Baltimore City Council scheduled for November 21, 2022 before heading to the desk of Mayor Brandon Scott for final approval or veto.

The People for Elected Accountability & Civic Engagement will work to continue to build its grassroots coalition of diverse community, civic, nonprofit, business and faith leaders from all across Baltimore to address the urgent needs of Baltimore City including combating crime, improving schools, cleaning up the city, and creating jobs, just to name a few priorities.

PEACE recently worked in cooperation with the voters of Baltimore City to place Question K on the ballot through a citywide petition process. Question K created term limits for elected officials in Baltimore City (Mayor, City Council President, City Council member, Comptroller) for two four-year terms in each office. Of the more than 118,500 voters who weighed in on this critical issue, nearly 72 percent (85,275) supported term limits. The Charter Amendment will take effect in 2024.

#### **About People for Elected Accountability & Civic Engagement (PEACE)**

PEACE was established in 2022 to engage and energize voters across Baltimore City and encourage city residents to become actively involved in the political process. PEACE strives to hold those in power accountable and create a healthy, transparent Baltimore City government that serves its citizens, not special interests or lifelong politicians. For more information, visit [bmoreaccountable.org](http://bmoreaccountable.org).

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