

## **Garland Hall Protest Media Statement, May 8, 2019**

### Baltimore Police Department Intervention

“At 4:51 AM this morning, at the request of Johns Hopkins University, the Baltimore City Police Department, supported by the Baltimore City Fire Department, provided assistance to reopen Garland Hall, where student protesters and outside activists had staged a sit-in since April 3. On May 1, protesters and outside activists significantly escalated the situation by forcing the evacuation of students and staff from Garland Hall, the university’s main administration building, covering all security cameras and chaining shut all exterior doors. The university’s request for assistance was based on grave concerns about the unsafe circumstances in and around Garland Hall and followed multiple offers of amnesty from university officials and warnings from the police if the protesters left the building.

The university has gone to extraordinary lengths to accommodate the protest in Garland Hall since it started more than a month ago, and has attempted to engage with students to find a resolution following forcible occupation of the building last week. We are unshakeable in our support of freedom of expression, which lies at the core of academic life. We had hoped to find a constructive means to resolve this increasingly dangerous situation, and we are disappointed that the decisions of the protesters necessitated a law enforcement response. We remain open to dialogue and will continue to support our students as we find ways to move forward together.”

### Background Information on the Garland Hall Occupation

- On April 3, student protesters and outside activists began a sit-in in Garland Hall, Johns Hopkins University’s main administration and student services building.
- On May 1, these protesters (including students and non-students) forced the evacuation of university employees and students from Garland Hall, and chained shut all exterior doors in violation of Baltimore City fire code – presenting a safety and security threat that violated both the university student code of conduct and the law.
- These actions interrupted essential campus services including support for students with disabilities, paying student workers, financial aid, academic advising, and international student visas.
- The building also houses sensitive personal and financial data for tens of thousands of university students and families.
- With the hope of moving towards a resolution of the protest, university leadership sent invitations to the protesters to meet and discuss the issues at hand. That outreach was rebuffed by protesters.
- The university also offered to any protester who willingly left Garland Hall today amnesty from criminal trespass charges and student conduct code violations.
- Additional information regarding this situation is available here:<https://provost.jhu.edu/reports-and-resources/protest-information-and-resources/>