To the City of Baltimore and our Nation:

It is no secret that all lives matter but we are focusing on black lives because it seems as if the justice system isn’t. Why do you condemn us for going to such drastic measures if you didn’t acknowledge our peaceful protests? We do not necessarily condone the violence that has occurred over the past few days but the fact that this is the only way we that we have gained attention shines a light on the rest of the world. We are tired of being persecuted. We are tired of being suppressed. Because we’ve been suppressed for so long, we feel as though there is no other way to be heard besides rioting. It has been said many times that rioting is the language of the unheard. It seems as if on every corner in our neighborhood, there lies a liquor store—which perpetually suppresses the members of our community. Since poverty is so deeply entrenched in our neighborhood, it seems as if drinking is the only way out and the placement of liquor stores in neighborhood seems to not only condone the suppression of blacks but promote it.

In order to better our community, we must get rid of the liquor stores. We must better our education systems and provide places for recreational use. It’s not necessarily that teachers need more education, but they need to actually care for the students that they teach. As a whole, we must care for each other and respect one another. We must figure out the issue on racism and why cops want to murder us. What do they think of us? How do they view us? What does it say about our society that these are questions that young black students are forced to ask? These questions need not be only considered but answered. We deserve answers.

We must change the justice system that keeps blacks in chains—as they were a little over 200 years ago. We are under a vicious cycle in which we desperately want to change. We are not asking you to give us a better life but we are asking you to help make it possible because we truly deserve it. So, body cameras are a plausible solution. If police don’t have anything to hide then they should have no problem with their actions being recorded. In fact, most members of our society are being recorded while they work. Why should the police be exempt from this? Also, we should target the areas in Baltimore that are most affected by poverty and transform them for the better. When many members of Baltimore’s society are alleviated from the constraints of poverty, we will thrive as a society. Consider these things because Baltimore deserves to be happy. Everyone deserves to thrive and with your support, we can achieve tranquility.

Sincerely,

The “Thugs” of Baltimore City College High
In the Generation Human Rights program