To the City of Baltimore,

We are rising college students – graduating from Baltimore City College High School, the events that have recently taken place in Baltimore are only a minor stepping stone toward our goal of change for a brighter future. We are fighting to obtain equality and believe that it is a disgrace that this has been happening for many years all over the country and we are tired and we will not stop fighting for justice until it is served.

Excessive force is never necessary, and accountability should be required when the proper protocol is not being followed. Interaction between officers and citizens is something that we crave, they should not avoid the communities that they are protecting and we should not fear those who are protecting us. Community division is a prominent problem in Baltimore; we do not feel that we are unified as one. There should be equal taxes that can generate revenue for the entire city and not just specific areas. More money should be allocated to building recreation centers and housing for low-income communities. Unifying the city can start with simple improvements in areas known to have low graduation rates and poor resources.

The fact that our own Mayor and President looks at us as “thugs” breaks my heart. I want you to understand that this fight is not over. You cannot rectify the lost lives of the black men across this nation through one court case. When this trial is over the work that has to be done is far from over, it takes a village to raise a child and if everyone chips in then there will be no more need for our citizens to be in the custody of the police. I’m not asking for your pity or your handouts – but there needs to be some initiative on your end to help our citizens. We have built this preconceived idea that “justice” is tangible, but you cannot grasp it and it doesn’t happen over night. We shouldn’t have to fight for the rights that we deserve.

Sincerely,

The Next Generation
Participating in the Generation Human Rights program