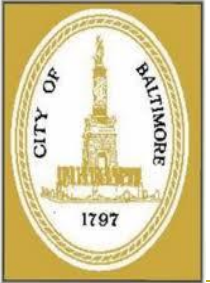


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Jason W. Mitchell, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 21-0040R		

August 6, 2021

TO:

Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 21-0040R introduced by Council Members Conway, Porter, Middleton, Bullock, McCray, and Torrence.

The purpose of the Resolution is to invite the Directors of the Departments of Planning, Public Works, Transportation, General Services, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, and Recreation and Parks; the Commissioners of the Departments of Housing and Community Development, Health, and the Baltimore Police; the Chiefs of the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the Baltimore City School Police, and the Sheriff for Baltimore City; the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City; and the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation; and to have these representatives appear before the Baltimore City Council to discuss ways that the City can prevent crime through the concepts utilized in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) model.

Ordinance 20-364B directs the Mayor to develop a comprehensive violence prevention plan that uses a public health approach and trauma-informed strategies to address the direct and indirect causes and consequences of violence in communities. Health Commissioner Letitia Dzirasa convened a citywide Violence Prevention Task Force made up of local, State and federal government and agency representatives, and community and private partners. This group developed a health-based violence prevention framework with an ultimate goal of equitable life outcomes for all residents and visitors. When Mayor Scott took office in December of 2020, one of his first actions was to establish the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), led by Director Shantay Jackson, to coordinate efforts to deal with the immediate issue of gun violence and, the longer-term effort to address the broader social determinants of health, for a safer and more equitable Baltimore. MONSE, building upon the Violence Prevention framework, used the public health-based approach to develop a holistic violence

reduction strategy that would address violence through community engagement and collaboration across agencies. The Mayor’s Comprehensive Violence Prevention Framework and Plan¹, which was recently released, is based in equity, healing, and trauma-informed practices. It is a five-year strategy to build safer neighborhoods. The basis of the Plan is that violence is a public health crisis “...that is preventable and treatable through an intentional, coordinated, and sustained effort.” The plan is divided into three pillars, with each pillar supported by a set of strategies:

Pillar 1: Public Health Approach to Violence	Pillar 2: Community Engagement & Inter-agency Collaboration	Pillar 3: Evaluation & Accountability
Gun Violence Prevention	Neighborhood Engagement & Capacity Building	Strategic Key Performance Indicators
Victim Services	Inter-agency Coordination	Performance Management
Youth Justice	Building & Strengthening Key Partnerships	Community Perception of Safety & Trust
Community Healing & Trauma-informed Practice	Fostering Relationships with Baltimore Police Department	Police Accountability
Re-entry		Policy & Research

Fiscal Year 2022 is considered the foundational year wherein the work is defined and staffed, supporting mechanisms are put in place, and agencies at all levels of government are aligned with key community and other partners in violence prevention. The role of an agency such as the Department of Public Works is to be a full partner in this collaborative, health-based violence prevention plan that will identify and address community circumstances and community environments that can lead or contribute to victimization, predation, and isolation.

City Council Resolution 21-0040R seeks to discuss the concepts utilized in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) model approach in crime prevention. According to the International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association², the CPTED model is a “...multi-disciplinary approach of crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design

¹ The Comprehensive Violence Prevention Framework and Plan can be found by going to the MONSE website: <https://monse.baltimorecity.gov/>

² The International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association’s website can be found here: <https://www.cpted.net/>

and the management of built and natural environments” to address crime prevention. CPTED strategies “...aim to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas, reduce crime, and minimize fear of crime.” The model has evolved into a “First” and “Second” generation program that first addresses crime opportunity, followed by crime motivation strategies. The following is a breakdown of those strategies:

First Generation CPTED	Second Generation CPTED
Territoriality/Territorial Control	Social Cohesion
Natural Surveillance	Community Culture
Image and Milieu	Connectivity
Access Control	Threshold Capacity

A cursory review of information about the CPTED program appears to have parallel goals with Baltimore’s Plan in crime prevention through holistic, community-based approaches. However, the Mayor’s Comprehensive Violence Prevention Framework and Plan’s underlying emphasis is always the health-based, trauma-informed approaches to equitably address community circumstances and community environments when determining crime prevention strategies.

It is this Department’s understanding that the Committee chair requested specific information from four agencies be shared during the hearing, of which Public Works is one. The specific concerns for this Department are the following: “Blight, improper waste disposal...are contributing factors to violence and crime. We want to know how each agency is responding. DPW [is] to address waste, trash and illegal dumping as crime prevention. We want to understand how each agency is coordinating with BPD to address these issues.” Improper waste disposal could be the use of plastic bags when setting out trash to be collected, setting out too early, putting trash at the end of an alley or on a vacant lot, not providing tenants with an adequate number of trash containers, not emptying a rolloff container frequently enough, or not using a durable container with a tight-fitting lid. While our crews do collect the trash set out on collection days, these crews are not equipped to perform extensive cleaning or collect massive amounts of trash at one or more addresses. Illegal dumping Service Requests (SRs) include dirty streets and alleys, dumping on vacant lots and next to corner cans, and other public and private locations.

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Every week this Department receives an environmental shooting report from the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation identifying all currently open SRs within a 500-foot radius of recent homicides and shootings in Baltimore. The report is also sent to the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Community Development, Recreation and Parks, the Liquor Board, and BGE. The report is used to call attention to any outstanding SRs and to give them priority, to demonstrate that attention is being paid to the area and to help stabilize and prevent repeat events in the vicinity. Police officers are also encouraged to use their departmental email when submitting 311 requests to identify the reported issue as a priority. In addition, Public Works coordinates with the Baltimore Police Department and Housing and Community Development inspectors to clean and board vacant houses after squatters have been removed.

Representatives of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on City Council Resolution 21-0040R to listen to and assist in the discussion about the CPTED model of crime prevention.


Jason W. Mitchell
Director

JWM/MMC