



HEARING NOTES

Bill: LO25-0005

Title Crime Reduction and Violence Prevention

Committee: Public Safety
Chaired by: Mark Conway

Hearing Date: 03/11/2025
Time (Beginning): 12:05 PM
Time (Ending): 2:00 PM
Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing
Total Attendance: Approximately 36 people
Committee Members in Attendance:
Zach Blanchard, Mark Conway, Isaac Schleifer, Paris Gray

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Agency reports read?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Motioned by:			
Seconded by:.....			
Final Vote:			

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Kevin Jones -BPD – Deputy Commissioner
Ty’lor Schnella – Liaison – Mayor’s office of Government Relations
Tom Donnelly – Assistant State’s Attorney

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Conway called the hearing to order, introduced the committee members in attendance, and invited the sponsor to make opening remarks.
2. BPD began with a presentation about crime Stats in the city (presentation in bill file)
3. The floor was open to questions from the committee topics included:
 - a. Juvenile arrest not associated with a district
 1. BPD is centralizing arrest of juvenile's (check Record) Renyolds director of youth
 - b. Work on reporting of general metrics – looking for a breakdown on city wide metrics.
 - i. CAD Proactivity – has this been helping to a decline in crime? How do we know?
 1. This is an inclusive metric – with a lot of elements including resource allocation. But as a whole having this proactivity is a positive, leading to tips, better community relations, and other positive metrics.
 - ii. Does proactivity go up as a result of high clearance rate with officers having more time?
 - c. What has been driving numbers down both in the city and nationally?
 1. Good police work, the reduction in volume has helped, organization changes with the breakup of CID – and other elements of organization change. Tech & resources have made a big difference.
 - d. Numbers will moderate throughout the year – but still showing significant progress.
 1. BPD clearance rate is still trending 5 points higher than last year and last year was the highest clearance rate in 25 years.
4. Comments from the Chair on open-air drug markets
5. Comments from the administration on open-air drug markets
6. Questions from the committee
 - a. What is the strategy to combat these open-air markets?
 - i. BPD
 1. It is a comprehensive strategy – with enforcement, economic development, other resources.
 2. Balancing act with other police responsibilities and so limited.
 - ii. MONSE
 1. So much prioritization has been on violence but MONSE has been looking at the intersection of violence with drug markets.
 2. Biweekly meetings with agencies
 - 3.
 - iii. Admin
 1. No plan per se
 2. If we see someone selling – we need to arrest
 3. Members need to engage with their command staff in their district
 - b. Need a plan to be able to articulate how drug markets are addressed to residents* follow up from executive team by March 25th
 - i. Need to give people an understanding that this is a priority, and a knowledge that we are working on this.
 - c. Coordination between different groups
 - i. SAO working with BPD on coordination constantly
 - ii. There is a system of triage for drug cases and looking at the appropriate use of resources.

- d. recent takedowns of open-air markets how are they prioritized?
 - i. Meeting with GVRs partners to review trends
 - 1. This generates outreach, engagement, and enforcement
 - 2. Problems exist when creating solutions at scale.
 - a. Westside shopping – created relationships with some youths selling to divert them to a work opportunity.
- e. Narcotics arrest – breakdown
 - 1. Charges are quantity-based – for intent to distribute v personal use
 - 2. Additional factors like scales, or other materials can lend weight to decision to charge for selling
- f. On misdemeanor cases – how do we move these – diversion?
 - 1. Drug docket
 - 2. Circuit drug treatment court
 - ii. SAO is working to change the culture – many SAO attorneys had not prosecuted drug cases before
 - 1. Organizational changes w/ build out to help relationship with BPD and help to coordinate prosecution of drugs.
- g. Questions about funding for MONSE & Community Organizations to make sure that this work can continue.
 - i. How can council partner with MONSE on these markets.
 - 1. GVRs is only in 4 districts – but can use other tools like coordinate neighborhood stabilization
 - ii. How are these prioritized?
 - 1. Not based on drug corners –
 - a. done post law enforcement takedowns
 - b. direct information from an organization, officials, other sources.
 - c. Data and analysis looks at several factors like crime & 911 calls also likelihood of retaliation and escalating violence.
 - iii. Who specifically makes decisions as to what is prioritized
 - 1. City wide initiatives (stabilizations)
 - a. Takedowns
 - b. Youth involved homicides
 - c. Police involved shootings
 - d. Mass shootings
 - e. Rapid escalating violence
 - 2. Weekly review of shootings
 - 3. Mayor, CAO
 - iv. Provide list of strategic locations with # of violent incidents that precipitated that over the last year or 3 years * MONSE
- h. In the case where someone is selling drugs but not enough to charge how do we hold them accountable? Citations?
 - 1. BPD is just going to arrest someone who is selling drugs
 - 2. SAO has charges that are more nuanced
 - a. Cannabis is more complicated with legalization
 - b. Diversion
 - c. Services – though none are offered via central booking

7. Comments from the Chair

8. Chairman Conway recessed the meeting.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, describe.

MONSE to provide a list of strategic locations with # of violent incidents that preceded that over the last year or 3 years *

Follow up on the timeline to create a plan to address open-air drug markets

Committee Vote:

M. Conway:
K. Burnett:
Z. Cohen:
E. Costello:
A. Glover:
P. Porter:
O. Ramos:

Tony Leva, Committee Staff

Date: March 12, 2025

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File