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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead – Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**The Honorable Mark Conway**  
**CHAIR**

### HEARING NOTES

*LO25-0005*

*Crime Reduction and Violence Prevention*

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**Hearing Date:** 2/3/2026

**Hearing Start Time:** 1:00 PM

**Hearing End Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

**Total Estimated Attendance:** 25

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

- Chair Mark Conway
- Danielle McCray
- Paris Gray
- Antonio Glover
- Vice Chair Zac Blanchard
- Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
- Phylicia Porter

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### MAJOR SPEAKERS

*(This is NOT an attendance record.)*

- Commissioner Richard Worley – Baltimore Police Department

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### NOTES

- Chair Conway began the hearing thanking those in attendance and highlighting that last year was closed out with some of the best numbers we have seen
  - Today will be an update on the trends at the beginning of the year
- Commissioner Worley
  - Three sections of the consent decree reached compliance in January
    - First amendment protected activity, community oversight taskforce, coordination with Baltimore City Schools
  - Reached milestone on 1/29 – recruitment and technology
  - Review of adult BPD arrests
    - Down across the board
      - In fairness the weather did hinder
    - Gun related arrests down 34%
    - Homicides down in almost every district

- Non-fatal shootings continue to decline
- CAD proactivity
- Citywide traffic team
  - Began recently – two sergeants and ten officers
  - Lots of issues (mainly downtown) with individuals thinking traffic laws are suggestions
  - have begun ticketing people for stopping when prohibited and blocking the box
  - have a website for people to email concerns [ctt@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:ctt@baltimorepolice.org)
- Entertainment district
  - Unable to put officers on every single corner
- Recruitment
  - Significant improvements
  - 5-6 recruits classes in 2026
  - About 400 short but hopeful that about 200 can be added in this year
- Youth and community updates
  - Weekly conversations with agency partners
  - Developing clear, standardized guidelines
  - Working to strengthen relationships with community
- Chair Conway commended the Department for how it has handled recent protests in the city
  - Managed crowds well and also respecting protesters first amendment rights
- Questions
  - Chair Conway
    - How are areas like the entertainment districts and others handling open containers and late night activity
      - Most effective least intrusive
        - Officers give a warning and tell individuals to dump it out
        - If individuals fail to comply they can be cited or arrested but individuals typically comply in the first instance
    - Community leaders seem to believe that the policy changes made during covid never went back
      - It is BPD policy to intervene
      - During covid, our state's attorney was not prosecuting
      - But we have shifted our policy because state's attorney will prosecute
      - Worked with entertainment task force to specifically look into individuals with coolers
    - May be helpful to quantify how prominent the open-air drug market problem is, do we collect calls for service? Is there any way to collect data on this issue over time?
      - We can track calls for service
      - There are far more drug shops in the city than we can possibly investigate
      - Young men hanging out is not an open-air drug market
    - It would be helpful to ground this conversation in something that people can understand
  - Vice Chair Blanchard
    - Can you confirm that you are moving forward with BCIT for a request for proposal for an updated CAD system

- There is a lawsuit currently
- Mentioned that 200 recruitment was the goal, is that the change in total or 200 new officers
  - No, that is just total recruits, will likely result in the net addition of 150 new officers
  - Goal this year is to build patrol
- Please provide an update on the strategy for dirtbikes
  - Something the traffic unit will help address
  - Will take some lessons learned from Philadelphia to address these circumstances
  - Utilize foxtrot
  - Will endeavor to stop and make arrests when parked
  - Will put a robust strategy together for this summer
- Dirtbikes can hit about 16 times the legal noise threshold of the city
- Previous unit had intel collection, would this fall within traffic this year?
  - Yes but the criminal intel division will also assist beyond the street level enforcement
  - Want to get a handle on where they are being stored and where they are coming from
  - Will step up enforcement this year, better equipped to handle
- Chair Conway
  - Have seen instances where young people destroy property in stores or apartments and leave
    - Has occurred throughout the city
    - Juveniles are not facing accountability for their actions (save select serious offenses)
  - There are holes in the system, it is a relatively small group of young people causing the majority of the problems
  - May be worthwhile for the committee to revisit this issue at a later date
    - BPD has been meeting weekly to discuss children in need of supervision
      - Recently young man who slipped through the cracks was shot after being shot 6 months prior
  - MONSE
    - Has been having conversations with DJS to establish a protocol
  - Please provide us with an update on what changes/solutions we will employ in the next 30 days
  - Could we please receive an updated graphic on Consent Decree compliance
    - Current goal is conclusion by the end of 2028
    - But concluding does not mean ending those practices
- Councilman Gray
  - In the summer, street vendors can become a problem when they cause a nuisance, how are you working with other agencies when that issue comes up
    - There is district level intel that should be compiled by the patrol officer
    - We use that intel to ensure the legal business is in compliance
    - Also need calls from the community

- Can be submitted through 311 and 911

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**Hearing Packet in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Attendance Sheet in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Vote Record in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Agency reports read?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

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Notes by: Ethan Navarre  
Notes Date: 2/3/2026

Direct Inquiries to: [Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov)