
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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Honorable Mark Conway
CHAIR

HEARING NOTES

LO25-0005

Crime Reduction and Violence Prevention

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 | • Vice Chair Zac Blanchard |
| • Danielle McCray | • Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer |
| • Paris Gray | • Phylicia Porter |
| • Antonio Glover | |

MAJOR SPEAKERS

(This is NOT an attendance record.)

- Commissioner Richard Worley – Baltimore Police Department
-

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
- 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

Hearing Packet in bill file? -----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attendance Sheet in bill file? -----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Vote Record in bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" 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 bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

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

Direct Inquiries to: Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov