

HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0039R

Violence Against Women - An Overlooked Public Health Crisis

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Chaired by: Danielle McCray

Hearing Date: July 27, 2022

Time (Beginning): 11:00 AM

Time (Ending): 12:15 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Attendance: Approximately 30 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Danielle McCray John Bullock Mark Conway James Torrence

- Bill Synopsis in the file? YES NO N/A
- Attendance sheet in the 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 file? YES NO N/A
- Evidence of notification to property owners? YES NO N/A
- Final vote taken at this hearing? YES NO N/A
- Motioned by:
- Seconded by:.....
- Final Vote:

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Michelle Wirzberger, Police Department
- Lt. Col. Monique Brown, Police Department
- Maj. LaTonya Bishop, Police Department
- Shantay Jackson, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- Michelle Lambert, Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and explained the goals of the meeting.
2. Lt. Col. Brown reviewed statistics related to violence against women for 2022 to date.
3. Shantay Jackson discussed the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement's (MONSE) programs related to violence against women and provided updates on staffing, IPV Stat, and funding for abuser intervention.
4. Committee members asked the following questions:
 - a. How many female victims of homicide and non-fatal shootings in 2022 to date? There have been 16 female homicide victims and 44 female shooting victims.
 - b. How many were connected to intimate partner violence (IPV)? Five of the homicides and none of the shootings.
 - c. What were the final statistics for 2021? There were 37 female homicide victims and 12 of those were domestic violence related. There were 87 female non-fatal shooting victims and 3 of those were domestic violence related.
 - d. How many of the homicides and non-fatal shootings were related to retaliation for some other street level violence that occurred? The agencies will review the data and provide the information to the extent that it is known.
 - e. How many female homicide and non-fatal shooting victims have been 17 or younger? 2020: 5 homicides and 1 non-fatal shooting, 2021: 6 homicides and 7 non-fatal shootings, and 2022: 2 homicides and 4 non-fatal shootings.
 - f. What is the plan for preventing young girls from becoming victims of violence? The agencies are working with City Schools on education to recognize potentially abusive relationships and on conflict resolution to prevent escalation to violence.
 - g. What is the strategic goal for reducing female homicide victims for the remainder of 2022? The ultimate goal is zero. The agencies are trying to get ahead of issues by identifying repeat victims and locations and following-up with families to connect to services and support.
 - h. How are we measuring effectiveness? MONSE is currently tracking data and will share that information with the Committee. IPV Stat will be live in August.
 - i. What is the current trend for domestic violence? Based on current numbers, this year will likely see more female victims of felony domestic violence compared to last year. There may be a decrease in less severe cases.
 - j. Why are domestic violence cases still trending up? The cause is not clear. The agencies are exploring more intervention with repeat offenders to reduce cases. BPD leadership is also reviewing cases regularly and officers are reducing dependence on victim cooperation by interviewing suspects and listening to jail calls.
 - k. What statistics do the agencies have on serving protective orders? BPD picks up orders as soon as they are issued, and the district begins the process of serving (attempts each shift). Officers also contact the victim to ensure they are safe. IPV Stat will include data related to protective orders.
 - l. Can IPV Stat include case dispositions? The information may not be readily available to MONSE, but they will explore including it in IPV Stat.
 - m. What successes have been shown in changing perpetrator behavior? Assessments are ongoing but have not been complete (August 30 target for completion)
 - n. How do we identify individuals who are high risk? The agencies are tracking repeat domestic violence offenders.

- o. Can dashboards be available to Council members? IPV Stat will have a public dashboard. Some information may be protected by law, but Council members will have access to the extent possible.
 - p. How does the State’s Attorney’s Office do risk assessments for bail recommendations? The initial recommendation occurs soon after arrest and does not allow time for full risk assessment. Assessments are done once the case is received by the special victims unit and can be used if the defendant requests review of the bail set.
 - q. What is the average profile for female robbery and carjacking victims? The agencies will provide the demographic information.
 - r. Are there patterns connected to certain neighborhoods or times of day? BPD identified patterns related to juveniles and U-Haul vehicles, and is hoping to see decreases resulting from recent arrests.
 - s. When there are crime patterns at specific locations connected to other issues, such as lighting, dumping, etc., how do MONSE and BPD get information to other agencies to address the issues? Patrol officers and detectives are expected to assess issues and report to neighborhood coordination officers (NCOs). NCOs submit 311 requests for agency follow-up and conduct outreach to residents. NCOs also follow up to ensure agencies resolve the reported issues. The average closure time is 6 days.
 - t. Do MONSE staff respond out to communities after violent incidents? Yes, MONSE staff do go out to communities where violence has occurred and also go out to communities proactively.
 - u. What is the clearance rate for rape and sexual assault cases for 2022? For 2022 the sex offense unit’s clearance rate is 21 percent (the national average is 34 percent). The clearance rate for 2021 was 19 percent.
5. Chairwoman McCray explained that the Committee will hold additional meetings on the resolution in the future and recessed the hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes **No**


If yes, describe.

The Committee will hold additional meetings on this resolution in the future. The Committee also requested the following information from the agencies:

1. The number of homicides and non-fatal shootings with female victims that were in retaliation for some other street level violence that occurred.
2. The output, outcome, and efficiency metrics related to domestic violence that MONSE/BPD track.
3. The metrics that MONSE/BPD track for protective orders and the related data.
4. Demographic information for female robbery and carjacking victims, including neighborhood breakdown.
5. MOCFS’s role in decreasing violence against women through its work with young men, including whether the Office of African American Male Engagement responds out to locations of incidents and, if it does respond out, how many times has it done so this year.

Committee Vote:

D. McCray:
J. Bullock:
M. Conway:
R. Dorsey:
P. Porter:
J. Torrence:
I. Schleifer:



Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: July 29, 2022

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File