
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: 4/14/2026

Hearing Start Time: 1:00 PM

Hearing End Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Estimated Attendance: 40

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
 - Director Stefanie Mavronis – Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
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NOTES

- Chair Conway began today’s hearing by welcoming those in attendance
- BPD shared overall statistics
 - Homicides down on the year
 - Nonfatal shootings also down
 - Significant reductions again in robberies
 - Some struggles:
 - Larceny from automobiles
 - Shoplifting
 - Felony CDS requests are down significantly
 - Shared progress related to compliance with the City’s consent decree
- Questions
 - CM Blanchard

- Robbery is down but aggravated assault is up significantly – that trend has occurred in several places
- Aggravated assault is more likely between two people who know each other
- What does BPD make of the jump in those numbers
 - BPD
 - Not a reporting change
 - Attribute aggravated assault jump to difficulty of young people to handle conflict
 - Very long cold period keeping people in close quarters resulting in domestic disputes
 - 14% increase is rather significant
 - Lots of perpetrators using mace, handgun permits are also easier to obtain than previously and any firearm involvement is an aggravated assault
- What constitutes a business check
 - BPD
 - must actually spend time in a business – 6 minutes
- neighborhoods really like bike patrols
- recognizes training requirements but it is a valuable tool
- would love to see improvements there
- is the training requirement fair
 - BPD
 - Yes, officers are taught how to do different things with a bike beyond just riding
- Chair Conway
 - Doing great across the city, seeing crime mostly down
 - Some spike in northern and southwestern districts in homicides
 - Also in the Southern district with nonfatal shootings
 - BPD
 - Southern was hit hard at the beginning of the year
 - Homicides most common because of conflict/disputes
 - Northern is different because it picked up parts of park heights
 - No major pattern
 - Real pattern is the major drop in eastern – 1 compared to 6 by this time last year
 - Compliance update notes small number of off track
 - BPD
 - Some paragraphs in use of force, community policing, and behavioral health sections
 - Not enough CIT; however, decree requires program is voluntary
 - Explain non-assessed portions
 - BPD
 - Could still be in training phase or BPD did not have data when initial assessment conducted
- CW Porter

- Traffic team has had success with virginia tags
 - There seems to be a dip from march to April in moving violations
 - BPD
 - April data only includes thus far
 - What happens after moving violations
 - BPD
 - Cannot pull someone over just for Virginia tags
 - But if pulled over for a moving violation they can look at the tags that SHOULD be assigned to the vehicle
 - If Maryland tags are assigned to a car with VA tags, they can tow the car
 - What about lapsed registrations
 - BPD
 - Unless there is a pickup order, just citations and court date
 - Total moving violations and total vehicles towed, large discrepancy
 - Towing is still a challenge
 - Lapsed registrations are often a year to two years old
 - Should work with state level partners
 - CM Gray
 - Thanks to the work of BPD, SAO, and owners of Edmondson Village shopping center for ensuring drug activity is no longer present along that corridor
- Chair Conway
 - Where is our plan to address open air drug markets in the city
 - This body has the ability to disagree and debate – encourages feedback on the plan presented today
 - Someone’s environment can be a significant barrier to recovery
 - Systems currently exist but are fragmented
 - Presented his plan to comprehensively take on the issue
 - See attachment
- MONSE – see presentation in hearing packet
 - The administration has a coordinated strategy
 - Lexington Market strategy is structured at CAO level
 - Wholistic model to deliver services to the Lexington Market area
 - People have been referred to jobs but they are not always staying there
 - Asking SAO to create stay away orders to keep people from the places they were caught dealing
 - Chair Conway
 - When asked to provide a plan, did not receive one
 - MONSE – discussed at last hearing
 - The Chair disputes the timeline
 - Appreciates the work, wants to know why it took this long to be shared
 - Neighborhood stabilization response plans are tailored to their specific communities
 - Coordinated with Mayor’s Office of Employment Development to ensure that individuals can be connected with resources to find productive employment opportunities
- Public Testimony
 - Include the community more – solicit feedback

- Must build community relationships to make this work

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: 4/14/2026

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A Coordinated Strategy to Disrupt Open-Air Drug Markets

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Public Safety Hearing
April 14, 202

Why We Need A New Approach

- Need for Coordinated Strategy Across Agencies
- Measurable Outcomes
- Residents continue to experience:
 - Daily drug activity
 - Ongoing safety concerns
 - Declining quality of life
- Communities report issues—temporary change, recurring problem

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Public Safety Hearing

A Coordinated, Citywide Strategy

The SOAR Plan creates a unified model that:

- Engages individuals **before enforcement begins**
- Disrupts organized drug activity through **targeted operations**
- Maintains a **sustained presence** to prevent re-emergence
- Expands access to:
 - Treatment
 - Mental health care
 - Housing
- Rebuilds physical and economic neighborhood conditions

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Core Components

How the Plan Works

5 pillars simplified:

- **Engagement First:** Outreach teams connect individuals to services early
- **Focused Enforcement:** Targeted action against organized activity
- **Sustained Presence:** Prevent markets from returning
- **Pathways to Stability:** Treatment, housing, and job access
- **Neighborhood Reinvestment:** Clean, repair, and rebuild communities

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Core Components

Engagement and Readiness (Before Day 1)

MONSE, with partners like **Roca** and **YAP**, identifies individuals and offers pathways into treatment, housing, and employment. **BCHD** deploys mobile treatment and harm reduction. **EMS** maps overdose risk. **OHS** prepares housing capacity.

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Core Components

Focused Enforcement (Day 1)

BPD, in coordination with the **State's Attorney** and **Federal Partners**, conducts a targeted, intelligence-driven operation.

MONSE and its partners approach identified individuals and offer a direct, honest message: The neighborhood is changing. There is an opportunity to step away from the drug trade and receive real help

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Core Components

Holding the Block (Day 1-60)

For 60 days, the City maintains a constant multi-agency presence:

BPD holds the ground

MONSE continues outreach and case management

BCHD delivers treatment and harm reduction

DPW and **DOT** stabilize the environment

DHCD enforces housing and property conditions

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Core Components

Health and Harm Reduction

BCHD deploys mobile treatment units, provides same-day medication-assisted treatment, and conducts post-overdose outreach.

OHS supports housing stabilization.

BCHD partners with churches and local nonprofits to coordinate sustained mental health services.

This requires coordination with state and federal policy, including Medicaid flexibility and DEA authorization for mobile treatment.

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Core Components

Economic Revitalization

MOED connects residents to jobs tied directly to stabilization and rebuilding. **BDC** supports businesses and activates corridors. **DHCD** and local mission based developers align projects with workforce pipelines.

This functions as a local works program, similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps.

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Core Components

Accountability and Governance

This entire strategy is governed through a centralized structure.

A **CAO**-led task force coordinates agencies. **OPI** standardizes and analyzes data. **MOIT** maintains dashboards. Agencies report weekly during the initial phase, then biweekly.

Every 30 days, agencies submit data, performance is evaluated, strategy is adjusted
Council receives updates and conducts oversight

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Closing/Call to Action

Next Steps

- Launch pilot program
- Gather community and agency feedback
- Track and report progress publicly
- Scale successful strategies citywide

Our communities deserve solutions that last—and this plan is built to deliver them.

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