



The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Response to 22-0111R- Informational Hearing - Addressing Youth Violence in Baltimore City

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) is herein reporting on City Council Bill #22-011R entitled, Informational Hearing - Addressing Youth Violence in Baltimore City.

The purpose of this hearing is to invite representatives from the Baltimore City to discuss the increase in youth violence across the city; and the risk factors driving incidents of violence.

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) coordinates and directs workforce development initiatives responsive to the needs of Baltimore City employers and job seekers in order to enhance and promote the local economy. Our vision is for all city residents to maximize their career potential, and all employers to have the human resources to grow and prosper.

Employment is a critical element of public safety. Studies have consistently shown that Youth employment plays a significant role in reducing violent crime incidents and arrest.

MOED has three primary strategies to support young adults:

- **YouthWorks** offers a job to thousands of young adults between the ages of 14-21 every summer. This year over 6,700 young adults (every young adult that completed the application) had the opportunity to work at one of over 440 worksites across the city.
- The **Youth Opportunity** program (**YO**) offers employment support to approximately 700 young adults between the ages of 18-24 who are not in school or working. MOED's Westside Center also includes the **YO Academy** that provides an opportunity for over-age and under-credited young adults to obtain their High School diploma and the **PACT** program that provide pre-adjudication assistance to young adults.
- MOED uses Federal Department of Labor funds (**WIOA**) to support community based organizations who provide case management and occupational training to out-of-school youth.
- In trying to reach young adults before they become "disconnected," MOED partners in the **Grads2Careers** program offering free job training to several hundred high school seniors who are not planning to go to college. This year, we are starting a new initiative, **Young Professionals in School** in which staff will go onsite to several high schools and facilitate job clubs and other activities to help prepare young adults for their future.

- MOED understands the importance of employment as it relates to reducing youth violence. MOED is willing and ready to strengthen partnership, scale or replicate existing programs, as well as to create new initiatives with the goal of connecting young people to employment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Perkins-Cohen".

Jason Perkins-Cohen
Director