



HEARING NOTES

Bill: LO22-0030

Crime Reduction & Violence Prevention Legislative Oversight

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Chaired by: Mark Conway

Hearing Date: May 10, 2023

Time (Beginning): 1:10 PM

Time (Ending): 3:10 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 50 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mark Conway Kristofer Burnett Zeke Cohen
Phylcia Porter Odette Ramos

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Agency reports read? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [X] YES [] NO [] N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? [] YES [] NO [X] N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? [] YES [X] NO [] N/A
Motioned by:
Seconded by:
Final Vote:

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Richard Worley – Baltimore City Police Department – Deputy Commissioner (DC)
Shantay Jackson – Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) – Director

Major Issues Discussed

- 1. Chairman Conway called the hearing to order.
2. DC Worley reviewed recent crime statistics (Presentation in the file)

3. Chairman Conway asked about the clearance rates for homicides and shootings. Chairman Conway's concern is that they are low for this time of year.
 - a. Chairman Conway asked what it looks like to get those rates up – and if there are budgetary considerations.
 - b. DC Worley clarified several cases that had been solved, but not accounted for in this report so the rate would go up and that he is confident BPD would draw near the national average for clearance.
 - c. DC Worley indicated that one issue facing detectives is that there had been several promotions of experienced detectives to sergeant – and that they were working to add and train additional detectives.
 - d. DC Worley stated that detectives are working with the State's Attorney's Office for additional training for investigations.
 - e. DC Worley indicated that a lack of community involvement also hinders investigations.
 - f. DC Worley observed that one of the largest issues facing the police department is a staffing shortage and that the department is 500 officers below full staff levels.
 - g. MONSE Director Jackson added that their victim services are beginning to track willingness to cooperate in investigations.
 - h. MONSE is also working to act as a bridge to increase community involvement to disclose either to BPD or other partners.
4. Chairman Conway asked about successes in the Eastern District regarding gun arrests and decreases in homicide and non-fatal shootings.
 - a. DC Worley noted the Eastern District does not have GVRs yet but does review shootings and utilize the data available to them.
 - b. BPD also indicated that the Eastern district has made use of additional resources such as special teams and units along the eastern and southeast border.
 - c. Chairman Conway indicate that other areas – including the Southeast were seeing spikes in gun-related crime.
 - d. Additional resources are being deployed to the Southeast district because of the spike.
5. Councilwoman Ramos indicated that the Northeast district is seeing a spike in crime.
 - a. DC Worley stated that the Northeast is a difficult area to work in because violence is spread out in small pockets, most recently in the CHM (Coldstream, Homestead, Montebello Neighborhood). BPD is looking into deployments.
 - b. One of the larger issues noted by BPD is the prevalence of walk-up drug deals which end in violence.
6. Councilman Cohen expressed concern about rising juvenile violence heading into the summer. Asked how BPD is responding. Councilman Cohen noted gaps around DJS (Department of Juvenile Services) noting recidivism and a lack of rehabilitation. Councilman Cohen also asked about intensive programs like ROCA and how BPD is coordinating with state partners.
 - a. DC Worley noted programs managed by several city partners for juveniles.
 - b. DC Worley noted deployments to the harbor – citing that their goal is not to make arrests but to move juveniles along.
 - c. DC Worley also mentioned that BPD has a good relationship with the city schools –they were able to prevent an incident at Mondawmin Mall thanks to the information provided as well as intervention by the schools to reach out to parents.
 - d. BPD also noted additional efforts to divert juveniles while at programs and rec centers.
 - e. BPD noted that 17 juveniles had been arrested with polymer '80s (handgun).

7. Councilman Cohen asked specifically about resources for juveniles in the DJS system to help prevent recidivism from a BPD perspective.
 - a. BPD noted working with DJS to identify repeat offenders and work to interrupt recidivism with resources and monitoring.
 - b. MONSE Director Jackson – noted BPD’s participation in a meeting led by the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success which is developing an MOU for data sharing that would include DJS and DSS.
 - i. Defining and identifying high-risk and at-risk youth to help reduce introduction to the criminal justice system as well as recidivism.
8. Councilman Cohen raised concerns about police officers staying in their cars while on patrol.
 - a. DC Worley noted that:
 - i. The BPD does need to do a better job with officers in their vehicles.
 - ii. Also noted that approximately 25% of officers are on overtime and sitting in the car is a practical matter during long shifts. The patrol vehicle serves as a space for work – paperwork and other tasks can be accomplished there.
 - b. MONSE Director Jackson noted that the Mayor has made recruitment and creating pipelines from schools to the BPD a priority.
9. Chairman Conway asked about youth assessing guns and how much youth violence is associated with gun violence.
 - a. DC Worley indicated that ghost guns were most of the ones accessed by youth.
 - b. BPD noted 3 youths as young as 13 found with these ghost guns. These weapons are not traceable and are available for ordering online. BPD is working with Federal partners to address this gap. But the weapons are not traceable unless other information like a receipt is found because the weapons do not have serial numbers.
 - c. 101 ghost guns taken so far this year. Additionally, there have been gun stores identified as a part of investigation and litigation to stop the influx of weapons.
 - d. Chairman Conway asked about sting or undercover investigations of ghost guns.
 - i. BPD noted that for the most part if a tip is received it is acted upon. Federal partners are leveraged to investigate those instances after the fact.
10. GVRS Presentation – began on slide 11 at Chair’s request. (Presentation in the file)
11. MONSE Director Jackson reviewed statistics regarding services provided, citizen refusal of services, and Southwest district problem analysis.
12. Serious gun violence in the Southwest district is generated by group violence - common motives include drug, group, and personal disputes.
 - a. These groups are small but generate the bulk of the district’s violence with many victims.
13. MONSE Director Jackson indicated more citizens accept services in the Western district over the last 16 months.
 - a. MONSE Director Jackson noted that the Southwest district is following a similar pattern over the last 4 months.
14. BPD reviewed GVRS crime statistics
15. The State’s Attorney’s Office reviewed prosecution statistics.
16. MONSE discussed the expansion of the GVRS and the requirements for districts.
 - a. The goal of the program is to not outstrip the capacity of each district.
17. Chairman Conway asked about the deployment of GVRS and how it is being staffed.
 - a. DC Worley indicated no additional officers are being pulled for GVRS but working on bringing up staff levels.

- b. DAT teams working in conjunction with GVRS.
- c. BPD leadership behind the strategy.
- 18. Chairman Conway asked about self-sufficiency for citizens who are using GVRS services.
 - a. MONSE Director Jackson noted the goal of self-actualization and that citizens are meeting the metrics of safe, alive, and free.
 - b. Chairman Conway asked for a concrete time frame to measure the impact of that goal – MONSE Director Jackson noted that anything under two years was a midterm, and more evaluation would be needed past that.
- 19. Councilwoman Ramos asked about housing use in GVRS.
 - a. MONSE deputy clarified the difference in types of housing assistance.
- 20. Councilman Cohen asked about the communication strategy for GVRS.
 - a. MONSE Director Jackson informed him that work is being done to communicate what GVRS is and how it is helping.
- 21. Councilman Cohen asked about the confusion around victim services.
 - a. MONSE Director Jackson described the working relationship between MONSE, BPD, and the State’s Attorney’s Office. Also talked about relationships with schools, and medical centers.
 - b. The State’s Attorney’s Office has restructured the Victims Witness Division.
 - c. BPD is hiring additional victim service coordinators.
 - d. MONSE Director Jackson indicated that MONSE could act as a bridge for victim services and can hand off to other agencies as appropriate.
- 22. Chairman Conway recessed the hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes **No**

If yes, describe.

Chairman Conway asked for additional information on low clearance rates.

Committee Vote:

M. Conway:

K. Burnett:

Z. Cohen:

E. Costello:

A. Glover:

P. Porter:

O. Ramos:

Anthony Leva, Committee Staff

Date: May 12, 2023

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File