

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

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HEARING NOTES

Bill: LO22-0030

Crime Reduction & Violence Prevention Legislative Oversight

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Chaired by: Mark Conway

Hearing Date: June 21, 2023

Time (Beginning): 1:05 PM

Time (Ending): 2:45 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing

Total Attendance: Approximately 38 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mark Conway	Kristerfer Burnett	Zeke Cohen
Phylicia Porter	Odette Ramos	Eric Costello

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input 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 file?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Motioned by:			
Seconded by:			
Final Vote:			

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Richard Worley – Baltimore City Police Department – Acting Police Commissioner (PC)

Erin Murphy – Baltimore City Police Department – Director of Government Relations

Col. Kevin Jones – Baltimore City Police Department – Patrol Division

Lt Col. John Herzog – Baltimore City Police Department – Patrol Division

Jon Hoffman – MONSE – Associate Director



Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Conway called the hearing to order.
2. DC Worley reviewed recent crime statistics (Presentation in the file) Topics included:
 - a. Recent crime statics.
 - b. Distribution of car locks for brands of cars being stolen (Kia's and Hyundai's)
 - c. July 9th @ 7 am the new district boundaries take effect.
3. BPD then took questions from the committee members. Topics included:
 - a. Homicides and non-fatal shootings.
 - i. PC indicated that the Northern District seems to be having an anomalous year. And mentioned that this might be due to migrating criminal activity.
 - b. BPD looking into action plans to address increases in shootings. Items of review include
 - i. Deployment
 - ii. Identifying the type of violence – group v single actor, retaliation for previous violence, etc...
 - iii. Working with community and governmental partners – MONSE and Victim Services.
 - c. How to utilize force multipliers
 - i. BPD is looking to allocate more money for cameras -both city watch and home cameras.
 - ii. Reviewing and updating the microzone strategy
 - iii. Asking citizens to use 311 to report issues.
 - iv. Working with programs like the Downtown Partnership, Youth Curfew, Padlock, and Squeegee initiative.
 - d. Property crime
 - i. Issues with Kia and Hyundai cars being stolen
 - ii. Car-locks to be distributed at central locations (locations and times TBD)
 - e. Concerns about the new district boundaries
 - i. Planning for the new districts has been ongoing for several months and is now ready for the summer deployment.
 - f. Will the Maryland Supreme Court ruling on ballistic evidence make it harder to prosecute gun-related crimes?
 - i. The BPD is working with the crime lab on the issue and how experts can testify.
 - ii. The ruling itself is on unqualified opinions.
 - g. Gun Arrest
 - i. Up by 16
 - h. Mass Shooting in 4th district
 - i. 6 residents shot – no fatalities.
 - ii. Councilmembers expressed concerns that this may be related to open-air drug markets which has been a concern of the community in the area.
 1. PC Worley noted deployment and staffing issues connected to that evening.
 2. Col Jones noted that the northern district has submitted the area of the shooting as a priority in their summer crime plan.
 - iii. PC Worley noted that the use of citations may help to address this type of crime in the future by connecting those using substances with services.

1. Council members expressed concern about over-enforcement.
- i. School Vandalism
 - i. 4th district – new 21st-century school – windows smashed, and playground ruined.
 - ii. MONSE Assistant Director Hoffman – spoke about engagement that has happened so far this summer – no minors have been transported to the centers but several incidents have been reported as having been curtailed by engagement on the ground with youth.
- j. Relationships between BPD and State Agencies.
 - i. CP Worley reports he has a good relationship with state troopers.
 - ii. State troopers, sheriff’s offices, and transit officers have been used as resources in the city to help BPD with operations. This is in addition to working with offices like the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention.
- k. DAT Teams
 - i. Councilman Cohen noted a Baltimore Magazine article that expressed several concerns about DAT units, linking them to prior plainclothes units and community disruption.
 - ii. BPD noted that the key difference between DAT and prior units was the span of control which allowed for greater accountability. Other differences include:
 1. DAT is not plain clothes – they do wear a uniform and are visible as police officers.
 2. Candidates are assessed by Command Staff.
 3. All arrests are reviewed.
- l. Overtime funds
 - i. SAP grant from the Governor’s office provides additional funds not from the City to help incentivize overtime.
- m. Catalytic converter theft
 - i. This has been a problem for nearly twenty years.
 - ii. Officers go to scrap yards to find sellers to help thieves and refer to the regional auto theft taskforce.
- n. Creation of the Citation Docket
 - i. BPD has worked with the State’s Attorney’s Office to create this.
 - ii. Officers will be able to assign court dates with the citation.
4. Chairman Conway recessed the hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, describe.

Request to share evidentiary protocols regarding ballistics evidence.

Request for additional information from BPD Audit, Review, and Inspection team on Integrity Checks

Committee Vote:

M. Conway:

K. Burnett:

Z. Cohen:
E. Costello:
A. Glover:
P. Porter:
O. Ramos:

Anthony Leva, Committee Staff

Date: June 21, 2023

Cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File