



## HEARING NOTES

Bill: LO22-0030

### Crime Reduction & Violence Prevention Legislative Oversight

**Committee:** Public Safety and Government Operations

**Chaired by:** Mark Conway

**Hearing Date:** August 30, 2023

**Time (Beginning):** 1:05 PM

**Time (Ending):** 3:10 PM

**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 52 people

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Mark Conway      Kristerfer Burnett      Zeke Cohen

Phylicia Porter      Odette Ramos

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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Motioned by: .....			
Seconded by: .....			
Final Vote: .....			

### Major Speakers

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

Richard Worley - BPD<sup>1</sup> Acting Commissioner  
 Col. Kevin Jones – BPD Chief of Patrol

Ivan Bates – SAO<sup>2</sup> State's Attorney  
 Fay Walker - SAO Division Chief

<sup>1</sup> BPD – Baltimore City Police Department

<sup>2</sup> SAO – State's Attorney's Office

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Conway called the hearing to order.
2. Chairman Conway made opening remarks about the topic of today's oversight hearing – the Citation Docket.
3. BPD made a presentation about crime statistics.
4. Chairman Conway opened the floor to questions for BPD including:
  - a. What strategies are being used to confront the rise in auto theft?
    - i. A large portion of thefts stem from weakness in car manufacturing - BPD handing out anti-theft devices at public events – more effective than asking citizens to come into district offices for one.
  - b. What programs are being used to help with juvenile crime?
    - i. What do we know about the young people committing crimes?
  - c. How many citations have been given?
    - i. 50 citations have been issued by BPD but only 3 have proceeded to the docket because of issues with the way they have been written.
  - d. How well do officers on the front line understand the citation docket?
    - i. There is a need for additional training.
  - e. When can the council have data for comparison now that the citations are being issued?
    - i. The State's Attorney noted that they would need a year for a full review of data and to expand the program.
5. SAO made a presentation about the citation docket.
6. Chairman Conway opened the floor to questions for SAO and BPD including:
  - a. Do we know how many interactions officers are having that could be a citation versus those that become citations, versus those that move through the citation docket?
    - i. Clarified the process of giving out citations to include 2 warnings, citation, and arrest spaced by at least 15-minute intervals.
  - b. How are we aggregating resources and helping people get to services?
    - i. SAO noted that among other things is important to have resources available at the courthouse – this is helpful to get residents engaged with resources directly.
  - c. Some citation offenses are still not listed – is the goal to build out the citation program?
  - d. How are we confronting issues with the accuracy of citations?
    - i. Officers need additional training. The Acting Commissioner suggested sending officers to the academy for a day of classroom training.
    - ii. The State's Attorney is supplying BPD with "cheat sheets" to help officers write citations accurately.
    - iii. BPD working with tech company Axon to help with tracking and the ability to have citations be digital which would improve accuracy.
  - e. Need for additional data on who is receiving citations but also how many what is the recidivism of residents moving through the citation docket process?
  - f. How is this policy changing the interactions between the police and citizens?
  - g. Is this policy going to be at a scale to affect the whole city – 50 citations is not very many and with only 3 making it to the docket the effect is minimal.
    - i. The State's Attorney noted that he was encouraged the BPD's internal check and review did catch insufficient citations before they made their way to the docket.
7. Chairman Conway recessed the hearing.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

☒ **Yes**    ☐ **No**

**If yes, describe.**

- Review and analysis of young victims of homicides and shootings.
- Can we use prior statistics based on geography to compare statistics from the new police districts?
- When will the council have information about who is receiving citations? Looking for demographic information to address concerns about over-engagement as well as recidivism.
- Citations and information about them and the process of the citation document need to be in multiple languages for non-English speaking residents.

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**Committee Vote:**

M. Conway: .....  
K. Burnett: .....  
Z. Cohen: .....  
E. Costello: .....  
A. Glover: .....  
P. Porter: .....  
O. Ramos: .....

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Anthony Leva, Committee Staff

Date: August 30, 2023

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File