

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Rm 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

November 18, 2019

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: City Council Bill #19-0451, Biennial Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan

Dear Council President Scott and Members of the City Council,

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) has reviewed Council Bill 19-0451. The bill requires MOCJ to develop a biennial comprehensive crime reduction plan in consultation with sixteen other agencies. The bill requires that the plan analyze existing criminal justice data; assess policing practices; assess holistic, non-policing efforts aimed at crime reduction; report on any public engagement measure taken or to be taken to assist in crime reduction; assess public attitudes and public education regarding criminal justice issues; and establish goals, priorities, and standards for the reduction of crime and the improvement of the administration of justice in the City.

The work of MOCJ is driven by an understanding that collaborative and collective action around violence reduction is essential. The five pillars included in BPD's Comprehensive Violence Reductions Strategy are in alignment with many of the evidence-based solutions that our office has identified across the country. MOCJ is focused on supporting the city's violence reduction strategy, especially in the areas of prevention, intervention, enforcement, rehabilitation, and re-entry.

MOCJ defers to the City Solicitor and BPD to what extent this bill is consistent to the City Charter and Consent Decree. As the agency that would be tasked with developing the plan required in Council Bill 19-0451, MOCJ has reviewed the bill for considerations around feasibility of implementation. In order to remain focused on the goal of violence reduction, it is important that the Council provides clarity on the intended scope of the plan and associated analyses – in particular as it relates to the requirements outlined in § 29-10(C). Further, while the bill broadly outlines the plan content and participants, additional clarity is required on the associated implementation mechanisms to ensure that the content of the plan results in the desired action and impact.

To break the cycle of violence we must come together around a shared agenda and set of evidence-based solutions. We look forward to working with the City Council on these collaborative approaches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ganesha Martin".

Ganesha Martin, Esq.
Director, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

cc: Sunny Schnitzer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Public Safety
Matthew Stegman, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations