



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

May 26, 2022

Mayor Brandon M. Scott
Office of the Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Scott,

The murders, shootings, and violent crime in the streets of Baltimore continues to be the most urgent issue facing our state. Already, less than six months into this calendar year, 128 people have been murdered in the city. They include a grandmother working as a DoorDash driver gunned down during a robbery, a mother shot while her children were inside the house, a pregnant woman and her fiancé shot in their car, and, just days ago, a young student killed hours after his junior prom.

When we met in Annapolis to discuss your crime plan in February, I received assurances that your approach would lead to a meaningful reduction in violence. Last week, members of the Baltimore City Council released shocking information revealing a complete and utter lack of progress toward implementing the plan you outlined. With each passing week, more residents, more community leaders, and more elected officials are calling on you and Commissioner Harrison to take definitive action to address this crisis.

In light of these outcries, it is critical that the state and the public better understand what is—and what is not—being done. I am requesting a comprehensive update on the implementation of your violent crime plan, an accounting of how state funds allocated for law enforcement have and will be spent, and details on BPD's progress toward closing warrants for violent offenders.

During our meeting, the Commissioner stated that there were nearly 6,000 open felony warrants that needed to be closed to get serious offenders off the streets. Prior police commissioners have put the number of repeat offenders driving the majority of the violence on the streets at a fraction of that figure. I am therefore requesting an immediate, precise accounting of the number of felony warrants BPD currently has open, as well as the number of felony warrants BPD has closed or assigned to federal, state, and county partners since February.

The state has been and will continue to be an active partner in providing resources to the city. In our FY 2023 budget, our administration provided \$37.4 million in direct funding for Baltimore City public safety initiatives, an increase of \$17.6 million over FY 2022. The state funded every single one of the requests you made when we met, including providing FY 2022 funds for the Warrant Apprehension Task Force that could be spent immediately. In addition to granting your direct requests for funding, the state provided the equivalent of a 50% increase in local police aid to BPD and made \$10 million available in safety grants for main streets and nonprofits, with the largest share allocated to recipients in the city.



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To date in 2022, Maryland State Police (MSP) and other state law enforcement agencies have conducted over 110,000 patrol checks, responded to more than 9,500 calls for service, conducted over 1,000 traffic stops, issued over 3,600 warnings and citations, served over 115 warrants, and made over 150 arrests within Baltimore City. Following the recent spate of violence, MSP has repeatedly reached out to BPD to offer investigative assistance and—as has often been the case—was told none was needed.

In February, you assured us that there was a comprehensive plan in place, but at this point, I do not believe anyone—including you—believes it is working. In their May 19th letter to the Commissioner, members of the city council stated that the people of Baltimore “deserve transparency to understand what their leaders are doing to improve their lives and the safety of their neighborhoods.” We agree that it is time to see a real plan and real action now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan".

Larry Hogan
Governor

cc: Michael Harrison, Police Commissioner
Bill Ferguson, Senate President
Adrienne A. Jones, House Speaker
Erek Baron, United States Attorney
Col. Jerry Jones, Maryland State Police