

THE BALTIMORE CITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2025 MEETING

Council Members In Attendance*: Chair Brandon Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore
Chair Audrey J.S. Carrión, Circuit Administrative Judge, Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Chair Geoffrey Hengerer, District Administrative Judge, District Court of Maryland, District 1

Dorothy Lennig, designee for the Governor of Maryland

Katie Dorian, designee for Maryland Attorney General

Catherine Flynn, designee for State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Richard Worley, Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department

Marguerite Lanaux, District Public Defender, Baltimore City

Angelina Guarino, designee for Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Samantha Barrettt, Deputy Director of Operations for the Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Kelvin Harris, designee for Commissioner, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Marguerite Murray Currin, designee for Council President, Baltimore City Council

James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland

Sam Cogen, Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Betsy Fox Tolentino, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Stefanie Mavronis, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

Xavier Conaway, Clerk of the Court, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Mary Abrams, Administrative Clerk, District Court of Maryland, District 1

Linda Lewis, Administrative Commissioner, District Court of Maryland, District 1

Crista Taylor, President and CEO, Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Thomas Maronick, Jr., Private Defense Bar Representative, Bar Association of Baltimore City

Marlon Amprey, Baltimore City Delegation Delegate

Others in Attendance*: Kimberly Barranco, Director of the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Kara Aanenson, Department of Juvenile Services

Patricia Johnson, Circuit Court for Baltimore City Clerk's Office

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Max Poma, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Nicholas Blendy, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Sam Friedman, Governor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Judge Diana Smith, District Court

Judge David Aldouby, District Court

Judge James Green, District Court

Hassan Giordano, State's Attorney's Office

Jonathan Hoffman, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

Monica Byrd, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Derek Loeffler, Baltimore Police Department

Lisa Garry, Department of Juvenile Services

Alycia Capozello, Office of the Public Defender

Absent: Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland

Anthony Brown, Maryland Attorney General

Ivan Bates, State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Carolyn Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Cory McCray, Baltimore City Delegation Senator

Kimberly Bey, Commissioner, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Zeke Cohen, Council President, Baltimore City Council

***We request that all in attendance sign the attendance sheet which is available at each meeting.**

MEETING DIALOGUE

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Brandon Scott greeted Council members and their representatives.
2. **Approval of the May 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Kimberly Barranco asked members if they had any edits to the May 14, 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved without objection.

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3. Chairs' Reports:

- **Mayor Brandon Scott**
- Mayor Scott remarked on the continued historic progress in reducing crime.
 - 22.7 % decrease in homicides - lowest homicide rate on record.
 - 19.6 % decline in non-fatal shootings since last year.
 - Crime is down in most categories. Compared to last year:
 - Auto thefts have dropped 34%
 - Robberies are down 22%
 - Arson is down 10%
 - Carjackings are down 15%
- Acknowledged the role everyone plays in making this happen.
- Discussed a recent incident involving the carjacking of a pastor and focused on the need to identify gaps to prevent situations like this from happening.
- Remarked that home monitoring needs to be worked on.
- **Circuit Court Administrative Judge Audrey J.S. Carrión**
- Judge Carrión thanked everyone for attending and noted how important it is for everyone to meet in person.
- Addressed the suspension of the home monitoring company ASAP by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services which was extended to August 30, 2025.
- Advised that judges are scheduling hearings before then to determine if home detention should end or if home detention should continue with another provider.
- Thanked Dorothy Lennig for her hard work and effort to get everyone together for this newly formed CJCC.
- **District Court Administrative Judge Geoffrey Hengerer**
- Judge Hengerer advised that the District Court was doing well and is also addressing the small number of cases they have with ASAP.
- He offered thanks to Kimberly Barranco for organizing the CJCC Committees which will do the bulk of the CJCC work.
- Noted that several District Court judges would be chairing CJCC Committees and thanked them for volunteering to do so given their busy schedules. He introduced:

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- Judge David Aldouby who will Co-Chair along with Judge Barbara Waxman the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee;
- Judge Diana Smith who will Chair the Pretrial/Post Arrest Committee; and
- Judge Jim Green who will Chair the Warrant Committee.

Dorothy Lennig stated that the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board Chaired by Judge Kathy Cox will be addressing pretrial and home detention issues. She invited any member to join them in working on these issues.

4. Standing Reports:

- **Director's Report:** Kimberly Barranco reported that seven committees approved by the Chairs would meet soon. She thanked all of the Chairs for serving and sharing their time and expertise.
- The Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee will be co-chaired by retired District Court Judge Barbara Waxman and District Court Judge David Aldouby.
 - Mission is to support and continue to improve the Criminal Justice Systems' response to domestic violence.
 - Meetings are bi-monthly. The first meeting is expected to be held later this month.
- The Interagency Data and IT Committee will be co-chaired by Angelina Guarino, DPSCS Assistant Secretary of Data, Policy, and Grants, and Joseph Mulhausen, the Chief of Data Analytics for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.
 - Provides a forum for discussion on information technology and data sharing and facilitates collaboration for Council members and other criminal justice partners.
 - Meetings are bi-monthly and will begin in early August.
- The Pretrial/Post Arrest Committee will be chaired by District Court Judge Diana Smith.
 - Will address issues regarding bail, pretrial release, and other post arrest concerns.
 - Meetings are bi-monthly and will begin next week.
- The Transportation Committee will be chaired by Circuit Court Judge In Charge of Criminal Melissa Copeland.
 - Will address issues concerning the transportation of individuals to court from DPSCS, Federal, and local facilities as well as related matters.
 - Meetings are quarterly and will begin later this month.

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- The Warrant Committee will be chaired by District Court Judge Jim Green.
 - Provides a forum for the facilitation of warrant service and discussion of related concerns and will address systemic issues.
 - Meetings are bi-monthly and will begin next week.
- The Community Justice Committee will be co-chaired by District Public Defender Marguerite Lanaux and Deputy District Public Defender Alycia Capozello.
 - Provides a forum for discussion on restorative justice and the sharing of ideas with Council members and other criminal justice partners.
 - Meetings are bi-monthly and will begin next week.
- The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team will continue to be chaired by Tania Araya, the Director of Programs at Turnaround.
 - The Team began its work under the previous CJCC and continued its work under the Mayor's CJCC.
 - The Team's mission is the same: To reduce domestic violence related fatalities and near fatalities through systemic multi-disciplinary review of domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities in Baltimore City, through inter-disciplinary training and community-based prevention education, and through data driven recommendations for public policy.
 - Anticipated that the DVFRT report and recommendations will be presented to the CJCC at the November 12, 2025 meeting based upon cases which they have reviewed for the past several years.
 - The Team will continue to meet monthly.
- **Division of Pretrial Detention and Services Report:** Deputy Commissioner Kelvin Harris provided the Pretrial Detention Report.
- Advised that total bookings are down from last month. Noted they continue to average 1500 per month.
- Reported bookings for most violent crimes were also down.
- Noted the top three offenses continue to be aggravated assaults, CDS, and larceny theft.
- Reported there were 743 police warrant arrests last month and 790 in May.
- Discussed the Youth Detention Center population has increased to 82 juveniles total with 75 males and seven females at present.
- 13 individuals received their high school diplomas while incarcerated and graduated from the Eager Street Academy, a Baltimore City Public school that offers credits even during the summer.

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- Secretary Scruggs started the first Seeds of Light event for young people featuring speaker Governor Wes Moore.
- Judge Charles Blomquist and Judge Yvette Bryant toured the facility to learn more about the educational programming available while youth are incarcerated.
- Mayor Scott asked to be informed as to the next Eager Street Academy graduation date.
- Catherine Flynn asked if all incarcerated juveniles were enrolled in school at the Eager Street Academy and Mr. Harris replied yes.
- **Baltimore Police Department Report:** Commissioner Richard Worley advised that as previously noted by the Mayor, crime was trending in the right direction and he thanked everyone present for their assistance.
- Reported there were over 800 gun arrests this year, and nearly 1400 guns were taken off the street.
- The number of ghost guns is also going down.
- Clearance rate for homicides is 62% compared to 57% last year.
- Nonfatal shootings clearance rate also improved from 44% to 34% last year.
- Thomas Maronick asked what was being done regarding the perception of crime despite the data showing improvements. Commissioner Worley replied that he has more police on patrols, and although he can report on the data that crime is down, he cannot change the perception and work of media outlets that sensationalize incidents. He advised all he can do is shift patrols with the number of officers he has.
- Commissioner Worley advised that some activities that citizens would like to see addressed are not illegal and that clearing corners is unconstitutional.
- Mayor Scott advised that they need to continue to report the positive data and the perception will ultimately change. He further stated that they need to stop talking about the exceptions as if they are the rule and do a better job of talking about the progress made.
- Commissioner Worley advised that there are 60,000 kids between 10-19 and approximately 100-300 juveniles who are committing crimes, which is a small percentage. Further discussed that many young people are out there doing good things, but they want to work with the others and get them on the right path.
- Delegate Marlon Amprey asked about the number of guns with switches and modifications and Commissioner Worley stated that they are seizing a lot of guns with switches.

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- Commissioner Worley commented on the number of people who possess guns.
- Assistant Secretary Guarino asked if the number of closed cases included those by exception and Commissioner Worley replied yes.

5. Member Reports: DJS Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino was welcomed by Mayor Scott.

- Excited and honored to be appointed by Governor Moore at a time when there is record investment from the city and state and a reduction in violence in the community.
- Provided her background and experience as an attorney, previous Deputy Secretary of Community Operations at DJS, and then with the ROCA Impact Institute.
- Bringing a renewed focus to operations for both responding appropriately on the front end and equipping both youth and staff with what they need to be successful on the back end.
- Looking at the outcomes for the electronic monitoring program.
- Most young people placed on the program do very well.
- For the small number who re-offend, they will utilize detention until the next court date.
- Looking at how they work with young people differently in the community to reduce violations and number of times they reoffend.
- Noted that DJS runs their own electronic monitoring program unlike the adult system.
- They have the oversight to provide staff with what they need for young people to be in compliance and succeed.
- Wants to improve service connections to provide needed support for the youth and family.
- Focused on relationships with stakeholders and listening as to how they are experiencing the system.
- Wants to come up with shared solutions to have shared accountability over time.

6. Legislative Updates from Members:

- Dorothy Lennig discussed the GOCPP 2025 Legislative Summary which was previously provided to members. She highlighted:
 - **SB 181/HB 1123 Geriatric and Medical Parole**

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- Overhauls Maryland's medical and geriatric parole laws.
- Aims to make it more effective for eligible individuals to be released from prison, saving money and benefiting those who can successfully reintegrate into society.
- Provides for DPSCS risk assessors.
- **SB 432 Expungement Reform Act of 2025**
 - Revises expungement eligibility by changing the start of the waiting period to the completion of sentence and expands expungable misdemeanors to include credit card theft and driving without a license.
- **HB 853 Maryland Second Look Act**
 - Expands eligibility for sentence reductions under the Juvenile Restoration Act to individuals who committed offenses between ages 18–24 and have served 20 years, excluding those with life without parole, sex offense convictions, or who murdered first responders.
- **HB 179/SB 11 Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025**
 - Establishes the felony of organized retail theft for property valued over \$1,500 acquired under a continuing course of conduct.
- Hassan Giordano, Division Chief of External Affairs at the Office of the State's Attorney discussed State's Attorney Bates' Legislative Overview which was previously provided to members. He further discussed the Second Look Act and Ivan Bates' role in the passage of the legislation. He further discussed:
 - **HB 1442 Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs (Report)**
 - This bill requires the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland to report to the General Assembly on information regarding truancy reduction programs across the State.
- Kara Aanenson, Director of Legislation, Policy and Reform for DJS discussed reports that DJS is required to provide to the Maryland General Assembly.

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- Evaluate the feasibility of creating a community case management apprenticeship program to identify the strengths and barriers of implementing this type of program.
- Follow up on the findings from the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability audit last summer. Requires DJS to follow up on their ability to track and manage referrals to non-contracted programs.
 - Provide information about decision-making tools, including the intake decision tool and the detention risk assessment instrument.
 - A summary of all DJS services across the state and in which jurisdictions each service is located.
- Update on the Maryland Youth Residence Center capital project and what efforts DJS is making to identify additional sites. They are continuing conversations with the Mayor's Office and the Baltimore City delegation about the project.
- Required to submit an annual report about the department's efforts for pre-delinquency programming.
 - Includes partnerships with local governments across the state.
 - How are youth service bureaus and other prevention initiatives being evaluated.
- Mayor Scott advised that there is now a Baltimore City Arson and Malicious Burning Offender registry similar to the existing Gun Offender registry.

7. Strategic Plan Discussion: Mayor Scott discussed the strategic plan as defined in the bylaws.

- Kimberly Barranco discussed that the plan could be created in a number of ways including through a subcommittee or through a non-partisan group such as the National Criminal Justice Association facilitating the process.
- She read the language in the bylaws regarding the formation of the strategic plan and noted that the goals must be SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound).
- Kimberly Barranco advised that having a strategic plan is a best practice and that most of the CJCCs in the National Network of CJCCs have a strategic plan to guide their work and the meetings.
- She advised that she did not receive any proposed initiatives or goals from members directly.

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- Several members volunteered to serve on the Strategic Planning committee.
 - Initiatives are expected to arise in the committees which can be used to form the CJCC Strategic Plan.
 - Judge Carrión advised that data should guide the strategic planning process.
8. **Adjournment** – Mayor Scott adjourned the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday September 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.