

THE BALTIMORE CITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 14, 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

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

Zeke Cohen, Council President, Baltimore City Council

James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland

Sam Cogen, Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Vincent Schiraldi, 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

Crista Taylor, President and CEO, Behavioral Health System Baltimore

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

Cory McCray, Baltimore City Delegation Senator

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

Jonathan Boushell, Circuit Court for Baltimore City Clerk's Office

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Marguerite Currin, Baltimore City Council

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

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

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

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

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

MEETING DIALOGUE

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Brandon Scott greeted Council members and their representatives.
2. **Chairs' Reports:**
 - a. **Mayor Brandon Scott**
 - Mayor Scott remarked on the historic progress in reducing crime.
 - Homicides are down 28% year to date.
 - Non-fatal shootings are down 24% year to date.
 - Auto thefts are down 37% year to date.
 - Robberies are down 21% year to date.
 - He focused on the future working together and is grateful that the parties are back together at the table.
 - Advised he was sunsetting the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) now that this body is in place.
 - Noted that this conversation is not about policy or politics but the purpose is to ensure that the criminal justice system works efficiently and effectively for all.

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- Thanked his Co-Chairs and Dorothy Lennig at GOCPP for getting everyone to this point.

b. Circuit Court Administrative Judge Audrey J.S. Carrión

- Judge Carrión thanked everyone for attending this newly reconstructed Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and was honored to serve as Co-Chair.
- Remarked that this meeting marks an important step in revising the mission.
- Noted the challenges facing the criminal justice systems are complex, systemic, and interdependent.
- Further noted the council is designed to bring together a broad spectrum of perspectives to work collectively together towards solutions that are just, effective, and sustainable.
- Acknowledged the unique role of the Judiciary, and their participation must respect the ethical boundaries and limitations their role requires.
- Emphasized that they must be apolitical and cannot advocate for specific policies but will share insight and identify systemic issues.
- Noted they supported evidence-based reforms promoting fairness and efficiency.

c. District Court Administrative Judge Geoffrey Hengerer

- Judge Hengerer offered thanks to Governor Moore, Chief Justice Fader, Chief Judge Morrissey, Dorothy Lennig at GOCPP and to Kimberly Barranco.
- Noted that several District Court judges would be chairing CJCC Committees.
- Explained that the previous CJCC no longer existed when he was appointed District Court Administrative Judge but his predecessors explained the value of the CJCC and the problems that it solved.
- Noted that all problems cannot be solved but that common ground can be achieved.
- Quoted former District Court Administrative Judge Joseph Ciotola who said when people work together to put obstacles in front of each other, things move.
- Discussed the transition to MDEC and the move from the Civil courthouse on Gay Street to the Schulman building on Calvert Street, and noted their new courthouse would allow for criminal traffic cases to be heard since they will have lockups.
- Discussed the opportunities for strategic reconfiguration as to how they do business in District 1 and the CJCC's role in helping to shape those outcomes.

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3. **Member Introductions:** Mayor Scott requested that the members and designees introduce themselves. Council members did so, and many noted how pleased they were to be in attendance in person, thanking Governor Moore, Dorothy Lennig, and Kimberly Barranco. Many also expressed optimism as to what they expect will be achieved through the CJCC and the opportunity to work together.
 - DJS Secretary Vincent Schiraldi reported a 24% decline in juvenile referrals and a 52% decline in violent juvenile referrals through April.
 - Sheriff Sam Cogen stated that this body is important for accountability and transparency.
 - Catherine Flynn on behalf of State's Attorney Bates expressed concerns that they were not included in decisions as to the composition of the CJCC and commented that they want to ensure that subject matter expertise is done based upon data and not politics, and that the right people are at the table.
4. **Approval and Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding:** Judge Carrión requested a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Creating a Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The motion was made and seconded. By voice vote, the motion was approved. All members in attendance signed the MOU document.
5. **Approval and Signing of the Bylaws:** Judge Hengerer requested a motion to approve the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Bylaws. The motion was made and seconded. By voice vote, the motion was approved. The three Chairs signed the Bylaws document.
6. **Standing Reports:**
 - a. **Director's Report:** Kimberly Barranco thanked Governor Moore for making it a priority to create the newly formed CJCC, and to Dorothy Lennig and the Chairs for hiring her to serve as Director.
 - Stressed this this CJCC is a new entity and not a continuation of previous CJCCs.
 - Noted that national standards for CJCCs were used as a framework for the MOU and Bylaws.
 - Further noted that with the foundational documents in place and leadership by the Chairs, this CJCC was poised to meet collaboratively to identify, plan, and coordinate solutions for issues that exist and will arise in the criminal justice system.

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- b. **Division of Pretrial Detention and Services Report:** Commissioner Kimberly Bey provided the Pretrial Detention Report.
- Advised that total bookings are down year to date and from last month. Noted they average 1500 per month.
 - Reported bookings for violent crimes were also down.
 - Noted the top three offenses are aggravated assaults, CDS, and larceny arrests.
 - Advised that DNA collection for violent crimes is down because violent crime arrests are down.
 - Reported there were 931 police warrant arrests last month and 823 in April.
 - Discussed the Youth Detention Center population is 75 total with 71 males and four females at present.
 - Discussed educational and other programs at YDC.
 - Judge Carrión advised that Pretrial Detention and Services data is now being sent directly to the courts through MDEC.
 - Commissioner Bey clarified that the YDC is currently over capacity.
- c. **Baltimore Police Department Report:** Commissioner Richard Worley advised that they are headed in the right direction.
- Noted 5 homicides in April which was a historic low and thanked the partners at the table for their assistance.
 - Reported there were over 500 gun arrests this year, and 2500 guns were taken off the street over the past several years.
 - Homicides, shootings, robberies and all subcategories of crimes are down with the exception of shoplifting which is the only area that is not down.
 - Consent decree – Health and Wellness and Prisoner Transport are now in compliance. Hopes to satisfy all of the guidelines within the next few years.
 - Mayor Scott noted 955 guns were seized which is a 4% increase from last year.
 - Commissioner Worley noted they are seeing a lot more high-power rifles.

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- Thomas Maronick asked about ghost guns. Mayor Scott advised that of the guns seized, 99 were ghost guns which is down from 128 last year. Commissioner Worley noted a steady decline since the lawsuit.
- Discussed stolen weapons and that many people now have a permit to carry. Noted 120 weapons were stolen from cars.

Council President Cohen commended the BPD for reforming the department while reducing violent crime. He asked what the plan would be if the federal government did not want to continue with the consent decree. Mayor Scott replied that he believes only the court has the ability to end the consent decree, but that they will not change their policy and will continue with the work as it is the blueprint for change in the department. Commissioner Worley agreed that it is a blueprint and that they will continue to monitor even those areas that have been lifted from the consent decree.

- Clarified that shoplifting is both individual and organized.
- Reported that the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is now being used. It counts incidents and victims – for example, a robbery at a poker game of 21 people would be counted as 1 robbery with 21 victims. He clarified that this process is not followed for homicides.
- Discussed social media trends of crime such as smashing windows with golf clubs.
- Katie Dorian reported that the Attorney General's Office along with the Maryland State's Attorney's Association is forming a retail theft task force.
- Discussed out of state persons who have a permit to carry and their responsibility to know the laws of the jurisdiction.

7. **Member Updates:** Marguerite Lanaux reported that the Baltimore City Office of the Public Defender Felony Trial Unit, Youthful Defendant Unit, and Misdemeanor Circuit Court Jury Trial Unit as well as the client intake office have moved to 201 N. Charles Street.

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8. **Discussion:** Dorothy Lennig provided an update on federal funding for public safety grants as it is known as of now.

- Grant notices were pulled from websites, but this typically happens with all new administrations so it is not necessarily nefarious.
- AI is being used to scrutinize applications that include the words immigration, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Believes training and technical assistance are probably being cut.
- Has not heard anything about VOCA, VAWA and BJAG grants.
- Noted this administration likes mental health/behavioral health and extreme risk protective orders and is hoping this funding will continue.
- Since the administration is not prosecuting white collar crimes, they may be pulling back on VOCA grants for victims that are funded through white collar crimes prosecution. Noted that this is a funding change not necessarily a policy change.
- The Federal Administration seems to be interested in re-entry, child exploitation, and law enforcement.
- In Maryland twelve direct agency grants were cut that were outside of GOCPP grant administration including to Lifebridge Health and Living Classrooms for community violence intervention (CVI) work. They also cut a grant for the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to house DV victims with pets, and a hotline for crime victims but they appealed and got their funding back.
- She recently met with stakeholders who were affected by the CVI cuts in Baltimore City to strategize how to keep the violence down.
- Noted that 20 million was cut for the state but the state and city cannot fill in the gap.
- Encouraged the affected agencies to appeal.
- GOCPP will invite the agencies doing CVI work to apply for grant funding.
- There will likely be more cuts and they are in triage mode.
- Encouraged concerned stakeholders to reach out to her and to Stefanie Mavronis.
- Sheriff Cogen suggested support letters from law enforcement may help and Ms. Mavronis agreed it would be helpful.
- Ms. Lennig wants to keep programs for kids over the summer.

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9. **Strategic Plan:** Judge Hengerer advised that the Bylaws indicate that members shall collaborate on creating a strategic plan that specifies the Council's priorities and core initiatives. Members should consider two to three core initiatives that they would like to see addressed and provide them to Ms. Barranco. The plan should have SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound). The Strategic Plan will be further discussed at the July 9 CJCC meeting.
10. **Adjournment** – All Chairs adjourned the meeting. Judge Carrión advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday July 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.