

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Director



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD
SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT

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Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) Quarterly Public Report

FY '24 - Quarter 3

Period: January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
FY24 Q3 of MONSE's Securing Year	3
Agency Formation and Hiring	3
MONSE Quarterly Updates - By Lane	3
Gun Violence Prevention	3
Victim Services	4
Community Engagement and Opportunity	5
Policy and Research	6
Finance	7
Grants and Contracting	7

FY '24 Q3 of MONSE's Securing Year

In Quarter 3 of its Securing Year, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) continues to prioritize the co-production of public safety with and for Baltimore as outlined in the City's comprehensive public safety strategy. As MONSE continues in the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan's (CVPP) Securing Year, the agency has built out the systems and staffing capacity necessary to both provide proof-of-concept and transition initial pilot programs toward full implementation.

Agency Formation and Hiring

This quarter, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement onboarded staff in the following roles across the agency:

- Finance Operations Coordinator

Major milestones for the agency during this period include:

- Incorporated additional MONSE staffers into Police Stat meetings to include cover topics such as Community Engagement, Human Trafficking, Victim Services, and Intimate Partner Violence;
- Publicized findings of University of Pennsylvania's Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) Evaluation:
 - Report evaluated the first 18 months of the strategy's implementation in the Western District;
 - Found that GVRS was associated with a 25% reduction in homicides and nonfatal shootings, as well as a 33% decrease in carjackings, with no commensurate increase in arrests.
- Mayor Scott named Stefanie Mavronis as permanent MONSE Director.

MONSE Quarterly Updates - By Lane

Gun Violence Prevention

MONSE's Gun Violence Prevention team develops and implements strategies to shift the culture of gun violence in Baltimore City, with a focus on partnerships and coordination both with fellow City agencies, national organizations, and local stakeholders. MONSE engages high-risk communities in the pursuit of prevention and intervention in violence that could result in a shooting or homicide.

In this quarter, MONSE's Gun Violence Prevention team:

- Conducted a Safe Streets hiring sprint resulting in 9 new hires;
- Expanded GVRS into the Central District;
- Laid groundwork to expand GVRS into the Eastern District;
- Hosted first ever Safe Streets Baltimore All-Staff Retreat on 2/14;
- Began preparations for GVRS expansion to the Eastern District;
- Assisted in a GVRS takedown of a violent social network in the Western / Southwestern Districts;
- Launched the Urban Conflict Manager Mediation Certification Program in partnership with University of Baltimore and graduated the first cohort on February 9, 2024;
- Finalized MOU with Mayor's Office of Employment Development to refer GVRS, re-entry, and victim services participants to their HireUp transitional employment program;
- Celebrated 365+ days without a homicide in the Penn North Safe Streets catchment zone;
- Reopened the Belair Edison Safe Streets site on a modified schedule on 3/26 by utilizing MONSE's Outreach Liaisons and Center for Hope's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Managers for managerial support;
- Hosted partners from the Ascension network from Texas to discuss Baltimore's CVI ecosystem and hospital-based programming;

Victim Services

Every shooting and violent incident leaves behind a web of trauma – for the victim, as well as bystanders, families, neighbors, and even the perpetrators of violence.

MONSE's Victim Services team has laid a foundation for intentional coordination with a trauma-informed approach, which is now supported by a fully-staffed lane.

In this quarter, MONSE's Victim Services team:

- Received a \$720,000 award via Governor's Office for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding;
- Met with Del. Sandy Bartlett to discuss pending legislation related to domestic violence;

- Hosted a series of events for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, including:
 - Workshop focused on teen dating and the elements of healthy and unhealthy relationships in partnership with lamMENTality on 2/26;
 - Workshop focused on teen dating violence and setting boundaries for high school students in partnership with Ishshah’s Place and Branches on 2/29;
 - Screening of a video series produced by Let’s Thrive youth ambassadors followed by a youth-led discussion about violence amongst youth in relationships in partnership with Let’s Thrive Baltimore on 2/21;
 - Teen Dating Violence workshop at Parks and People with the Branches Internship Program for Baltimore City high school students on 2/28;

- Continued to lay the groundwork for the Domestic Violence High-Risk Case Review Team;

- Hosted a train-the-trainer Safe Zone Project training (LGBTQ+ focused training) in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs to Baltimore City Department of Human Resources employees on 2/28;

- Tabled at the Joy Baltimore Spring Festival; a targeted event for the LGBTQ community;

- Co-moderated a panel discussion in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs for Trans Day of Visibility;

- Hosted Human Trafficking Investigators Seminar in Ocean City, MD.

Community Engagement and Opportunity

Dedicated to the co-production of public safety in all of Baltimore’s neighborhoods, the Community Engagement and Opportunity team partners with residents, community-based organizations, institutions, businesses, and City agencies to stem the tide of violence, while simultaneously unearthing its root causes.

This team leads the agency’s collaborative efforts in youth justice, re-entry, community healing, social and emotional development, coordinated neighborhood stabilization response, and other associated work.

MONSE’s Community Engagement and Opportunity team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Launched the Reentry Action Council (RAC) to inform general reentry work with an emphasis on Safe Return Planning;
- Held three RAC meetings;
- Selected a third Neighborhood Policing Plan pilot neighborhood (North Ave. Hilton Task Force) and hosted kick off meeting on 1/30;
- Launched monthly Safe Return Planning meetings behind the wall;
- Participated in Youth Violence Reduction Workgroup Sessions with Deputy Mayor Dr. Dzirasa in February;
- Activated several Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Responses (CNSRs) and hosted associated events:
 - Launched a proactive CNSR in Walbrook;
 - Hosted Resource Fair in Belair Edison;
 - Peace Mobile Presence at 2400 Washington Blvd in Morrell Park (Proactive & GVRs Takedown);
 - Hosted Post Stabilization Resource Fair at 2000 W. Pratt;
 - Hosted Post Stabilization Resource Fair for stabilization at Frederick & Collins.

Policy and Research

MONSE's Policy and Research team is also responsible for developing and pushing Mayor Scott's legislative agenda as it relates to public safety. This team is also home to the agency's in-house data capacity.

MONSE's Policy and Research team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Held briefings with council members on the progress being made on the School Based Violence Intervention pilot;
- Trained Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) staff to directly enter GVRs data into Apricot;
- Hosted a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) meeting on 2/8;
- Participated in a Public Safety and Government Oversight (PSGO) Committee hearing on Safe Streets Baltimore data trends and program updates;

- Testified in PSGO hearing in support of City Council Bill 23-0416, which will establish the first ever Office of Returning Citizens;
- Participated in a Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee hearing on Safe Streets hiring practices;
- Opened applications for various vacant Public Safety Advisory Commission positions;

Finance

The Finance team ensures that MONSE has the necessary funding to support the agency's work associated with implementation of the CVPP and the work of community-based organizations and service providers. This team works to expand the potential network of funding available for neighborhood safety.

This team provides programmatic and fiscal management of the grants that support community-based organizations and service providers; manages the contracts and fiscal needs of MONSE; works with the City's Procurement Office, Chief Solicitor, Audits Office, and Board of Estimates to ensure all contracts are being executed properly; and identifies and compiles potential funding for immediate and future support.

MONSE's Finance team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Submitted proposed FY '25 agency budget;
- Shifted funding priorities to support GVRS Community Moral Voices and Community Outreach Microgrants;
- Announced \$125,000 worth of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) awards for re-entry, community healing, and youth justice work;
- Announced \$445,000 in FY '24 General Fund awards to support SideStep Community Based Organizations;
- Participated in the FY '25 Community Budget Forums.

Grants and Contracting

MONSE received Board of Estimates (BOE) approval for the following contracts, grant award acceptances, and agreements:

January 10, 2024

- **Maryland Department of Juvenile Services – \$200,375.00 (Term: 7/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested that the Board approve an award / acceptance from the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services to support MONSE’s SideStep Youth Diversion program and its services.*
- **Let’s Thrive Baltimore – \$25,000 (Term: 10/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to Let’s Thrive Baltimore to provide holistic community support, strategies, and awareness for families impacted by trauma in Baltimore City. Let’s Thrive Baltimore plans to end child trafficking by confronting attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely.*
- **Community Law In Action, Inc. – \$50,000 (Term: 10/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to Community Law in Action, Inc to increase engagement opportunities for youth and young adults throughout the grant period to stay actively engaged in learning and positive development efforts. They will reduce the likelihood of youth and young adults’ participants’ involvement and interaction with the justice system and law enforcement.*

January 24, 2024

- **Fayette Street Outreach – \$344,654 (Term: 7/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to Fayette Street Outreach to provide community-led efforts to help restore community engagement, local government, and police relationships in Baltimore City.*
- **Social Solutions Global, Inc. – \$65,085.99 (Term: 3/1/22-2/28/25).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a contract with Social Solutions Global, Inc. to provide funding for Apricot software, for which the Contractor will provide support and training, on behalf of MONSE.*
- **The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc. – \$70,000 (Term: 7/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc. to continue its partnership with KEYS Empowers, Inc. (KEYS). KEYS is a community-based organization that delivers voluntary, nonpunitive, and holistic support to young people at risk of becoming or who have become Opportunity Youth.*
- **Araminta Freedom Initiative, Inc. – \$50,000 (Term: 10/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a subrecipient grant agreement award to Araminta Freedom Initiative, Inc to create a safe space for young mothers and their small children who are survivors of child sex trafficking through programming to improve parenting and reduce intergenerational engagement with the child welfare system.*

February 7, 2024

- **Dream Bigger Community Institute, Inc. – \$50,000 (Term: 10/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to Dream Bigger Community Institute, Inc. to provide support in programming that offers young people suspected of certain unlawful behaviors a meaningful opportunity to avoid the harms of the justice system for the Sidestep Pre-Arrest Remote Diversion Program.*
- **ROCA Baltimore, LLC – \$1,877,294 (Term: 17/1/23-6/30/25).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a subrecipient grant agreement award to ROCA Baltimore LLL to reduce the reoccurrence of violence and recidivism while increasing young people's readiness for employment. Through relentless outreach, ROCA'S youth workers develop deep relationships over 2-4 years that help young people begin to heal from their hurt and anger. ROCA provides trauma-informed employment, education, parenting and life skills programs.*

February 21, 2024

- **Grace City Church, Inc., & We Our Us Unity Engagement Men's Movement Incorporated – \$250,000 (Term: 7/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to Grace City Church, Inc., & We Our Us Unity Engagement Men's Movement Incorporated to provide resources to help the men of Baltimore to a path of success in Baltimore City. We Our Us Unity Engagement Men's Movement Incorporated (We Our Us) connects, protects, mediates, and conveys messages in Baltimore in order to guide vulnerable populations connected to violence, especially boys and men of color to appropriate resources, mobilize them to embrace prominent roles in their communities, and to address and help reconcile conflicts, and spread the word about the movement and opportunities through consistent and collective strategic actions.*

March 6, 2024

- **University of Maryland Medical Center, LLC. – \$250,000 (Term: 7/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement award to University of Maryland Medical Center, LLC. to utilize Community Violence Intervention Hospital Responders to reduce readmission of patients with a violence-related injury, especially gun-related injuries, and to assist patients with access to wrap-around services.*
- **Fayette Street Outreach, Inc. – \$0 (Term: 7/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board to approve a correction to the Grant Agreement with Fayette Street Outreach, Inc. that was previously approved on 01/24/2024 between MONSE and Fayette Street Outreach Organization, Inc. The agreement incorrectly listed*

the Spend Category as 630631. The correct Spend Category number should be 670701.

March 20, 2024

- **Baltimore Community Foundation – \$150,000 (Term: 1/1/24-12/15/24).** *MONSE requested that the Board approve an acceptance of an award from the Baltimore Community Foundation to support funding for Baltimore City’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy.*
- **Aziza PE&CE Inc. – \$50,000 (Term: 10/1/23-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board to approve a correction to the Grant Agreement with Aziza PE&CE Inc. to provide support in programming that offers young people suspected of certain unlawful behaviors a meaningful opportunity to avoid the harms of the justice system for the Sidestep Pre-Arrest Remote Diversion Program.*
- **University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work, The Institute of Innovation and Implementation. – \$0 (Term: 10/1/20-9/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board to approve an amendment to the Grant Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore to design, implement, and evaluate the B'More Reconnects project, funded by the FY '20 Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children, through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.*
- **Next One Up Foundation, Inc. – \$50,000 (Term: 1/1/24-12/31/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement with Next One Up Foundation, Inc. to engage 100 young, Black males (aged 12-17) in a rigorous out-of-school time programming designed to invest in their promise. NOU will provide young men with strong connections to a positive community; prevent delinquency by fostering prosocial skills; and empower young men as ‘future-ready’ youth.*
- **Sarah’s House, Inc. – \$25,000 (Term: 1/1/24-6/30/24).** *MONSE requested the Board approve a grant agreement with Sarah’s House, Inc. to provide support in programming that offers young people suspected of certain unlawful behaviors a meaningful opportunity to avoid the harms of the justice system for the Sidestep Pre-Arrest Remote Diversion Program.*