

BALTIMORE CITY COMPREHENSIVE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT
Effective: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2026

The Scott administration's comprehensive violence prevention strategy centers on three pillars: **(1) Public Health Approach to Violence**, **(2) Community Engagement and Inter-agency Coordination**, and **(3) Evaluation and Accountability**.

Historically, City government has shied away from setting ambitious goals to reduce violent crime. Mayor Scott believes in setting strong goals and pushing his entire administration to work with complete focus, dedication, and accountability to achieve them. Successful implementation of this plan strives to sustainably reduce gun violence (fatal and non-fatal shootings) by 15 percent per year and make Baltimore a city where everyone is and feels safe.

These goals will be measured by the number of serious victimizations (both fatal and non-fatal shootings), as well as the community's perception of safety and trust.

This work will not be easy, nor will it happen overnight — but reducing violence and building public safety, hand-in-hand with Baltimore residents, will remain the Mayor's primary focus over this term and beyond through the implementation of this plan.

Pillars: 01

PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO VIOLENCE

- Gun Violence Prevention
- Victim Services
- Youth Justice
- Community Healing and Trauma-Informed Practice
- Re-Entry

"For the first time, Baltimore residents were asked what they wanted to see in a public safety strategy and they spoke up. This Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan reflects the voice of Baltimoreans who want to see change in their communities. It is a path to sustainably reduce violent crime in Baltimore using a public health approach, and ultimately save lives."

-Mayor Brandon M. Scott

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

- Neighborhood Engagement & Capacity Building
- Inter-Agency Coordination (Local, State and Federal)
- Building Key Partnerships
- Fostering Relationships with BPD

"As a lifelong Baltimorean, I am grateful to fellow residents for their willingness to partner in the work of fostering public safety. Applying a public health approach to violence means addressing gun violence and unearthing its root causes."

-MONSE Director Shantay Jackson

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EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Strategic Key Performance Indicators
- Performance Management
- Community Perception of Safety
- Police Accountability Policy and Research

"For the first time now, we're not medicating and prescribing medicine for symptoms. We're actually going after the cure for violence."

-BPD Chief Michael Harrison

VIEW THE FULL PLAN: bit.ly/VPP-BMORE

Pillars:

01

Public Health Approach to Violence

A public health approach to reducing violence involves defining and measuring the problem, identifying the cause or risk factors associated with violence, determining how to prevent violence, implementing effective strategies on a larger scale, and evaluating their impact. This type of approach aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people.

WORK IN PROGRESS / BPD'S GROUP VIOLENCE UNIT

The Baltimore Police Department is creating a Group Violence Unit to support the successful implementation of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy. Rather than simply making arrests, officers who are part of this specific unit will work in partnership with MONSE, the State's Attorney's Office, federal partners, and community-based organizations to make referrals and hold people committing violence accountable.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION / EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY

In March of 2021 Mayor Scott announced a partnership with Everytown for Gun Safety to create a first-of-its-kind data portal. This tool gives Baltimore a near real-time view of crime gun data. This portal integrates data regarding the origin of crime guns, ballistic evidence, shot spotter alerts, and BPD crime data — enabling detectives to see the full picture of guns fueling Baltimore's violence. With a few quick clicks, BPD detectives can see patterns related to where crime guns are coming from and the connections between where guns are coming from and how they're being used on our streets.

"This is an important moment for gun safety in our city. This is the type of bold action that we should be seeing from our local leaders in response to our gun violence epidemic."

-Melissa Ladd, Maryland chapter of Moms Demand Action volunteer

"We have to take back our streets. We have to take back our communities. That's the most important thing to do... that's part of what this plan is going to do."

-US Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger

"We stand together... shoulder to shoulder, federal, state, local, to make these changes and to lift up public safety here in the city of Baltimore."

-US Congressman John Sarbanes

"This is a watershed moment. We have to do things differently to disrupt patterns of violent crime. Honored to support @ MayorBMScott & other city/state/leaders on this initiative."

-Del. Stephanie Smith, MD District 45

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Community Engagement and Inter-agency Coordination

Community engagement, stakeholder coordination, and collaboration are at the heart of an effective public safety strategy for all Baltimoreans.

WORK IN PROGRESS / NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING PILOTS IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

Neighborhood Policing Plans will be piloted in two police districts before being scaled up: the Western District – in partnership with Fayette Street Outreach – and the Southern District – in partnership with the Greater Baybrook Association. These plans allow for individually-tailored strategies by neighborhood and are a direct response to calls by Baltimore residents to have more agency over decision-making impacting their communities.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION / BALTIMORE COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTER

The Baltimore Community Mediation Center (BCMC) was selected and tasked with engaging Baltimore residents around the City's Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS). In these facilitated, community-based conversations, BCMC will talk to residents about what GVRS is and solicit feedback on the approach.

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Evaluation and Accountability

Accountability and quantified results are a key component of any successful strategy in order to show progress, make course corrections when needed, and ensure transparency for all Baltimoreans, funders, and stakeholders.

WORK IN PROGRESS / RESUMING BI-WEEKLY POLICESTAT MEETINGS

In one of his first acts as mayor, Mayor Scott re-instituted bi-weekly PoliceStat meetings to strengthen accountability between City Hall and BPD. These meetings bring together members of different City agencies to evaluate operations on blocks with the highest rates of violent crime. The Stat meetings are mindful of current police operations, build on existing programmatic infrastructure, and use an existing performance management framework in City government.

WORK IN PROGRESS / CROSS-DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER TOWN HALLS

Since taking office, Mayor Scott has convened a series of four town halls with neighborhood leaders from every City Council district. These town halls group community association presidents from different Council districts to hear directly from the Mayor, ask questions, learn about the issues of other neighborhoods, and encourage cross-district partnership.