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

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## **Executive Summary**

Upon taking office, Mayor Brandon M. Scott established the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), led by Director Shantay Jackson, to serve as the administration's key partner in the coordination and implementation of Baltimore's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP) Baltimore's first holistic, multi-year violence prevention strategy.

Over the next five years, the Scott administration will continue to focus on implementing this all-hands-on-deck strategy. This CVPP is divided into three pillars, which reflect a holistic approach to reducing violence while also focusing on individuals, communities, and systems:

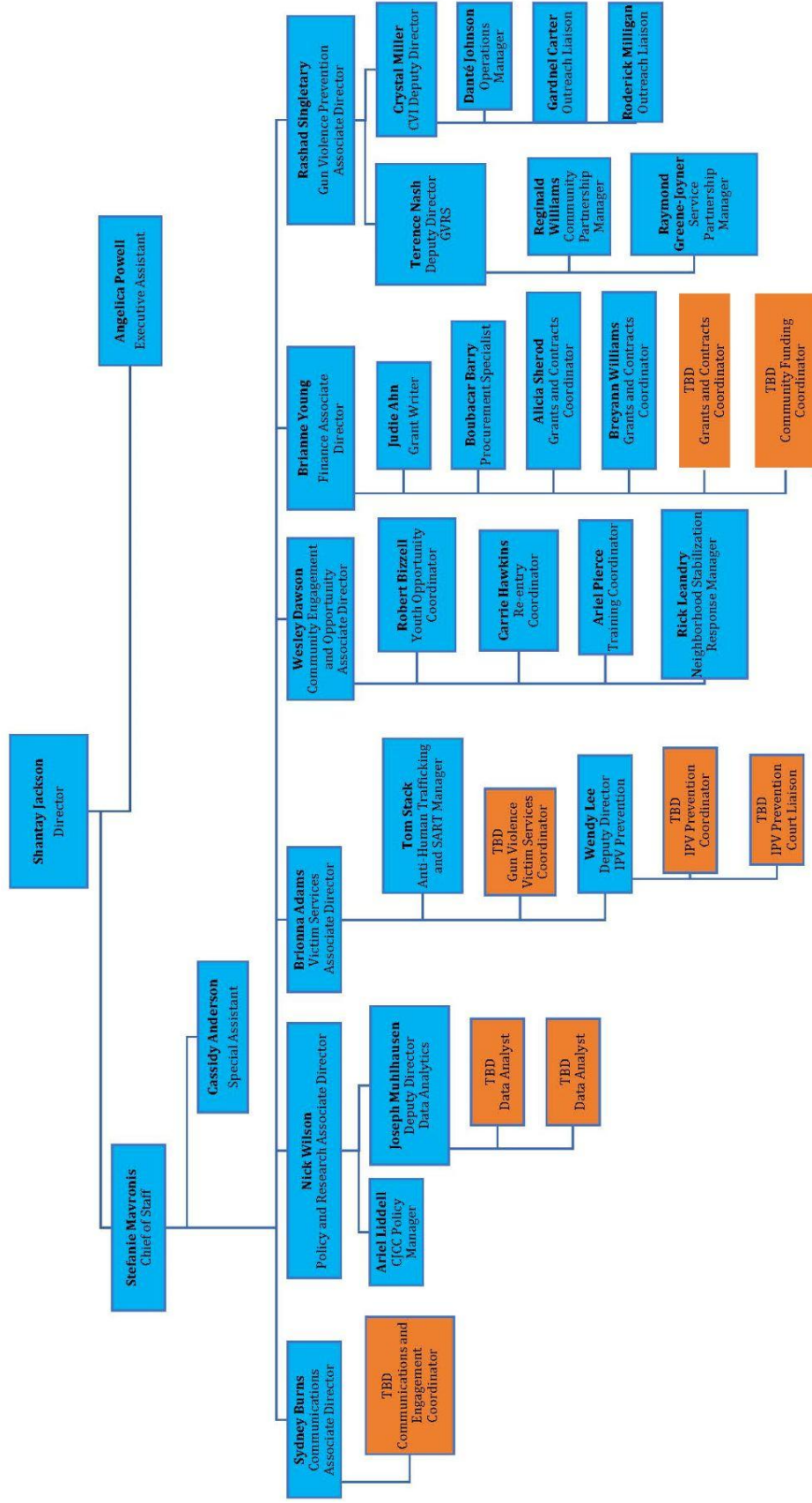
- (1) Public Health Approach to Violence
- (2) Community Engagement and Interagency Coordination
- (3) Evaluation and Accountability

In wrapping up the third quarter since the release of the CVPP, MONSE has made great strides in agency formation, foundation building, and implementation associated with various aspects of the plan.

This report, to be shared publicly on a quarterly basis, outlines the progress made in the implementation of Baltimore's first-ever holistic public safety strategy. Across MONSE's six lanes of focus: Policy and Research, Victim Services, Community Engagement and Opportunity, Finance, Gun Violence Prevention, and Communications, Director Shantay Jackson has been clear about her expectations of the team: unearth the root causes of violence through inter-agency and cross-community coordination and partnership and work to cure gun violence through a lens of public health.

From the implementation of the dual Group Violence Reduction Strategy and Community Violence Intervention approach to the expansion of victim services, the items outlined in this report are indicative of MONSE's dedication to the co-production of public safety in all of Baltimore's neighborhoods. MONSE continues to partner with Baltimore's residents, community-based organizations, institutions, businesses, and agencies to stem the tide of violence.

# The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Organizational Chart



## Agency Formation and Hiring

In the last quarter, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement rounded out the onboarding of its senior lead team, adding:

- Chief of Staff, **Stefanie Mavronis**;
- **Brionna Adams**, Victim Services Associate Director;
- **Sydney O. Burns**, Communications Associate Director;
- and **Wesley Dawson**, Community Engagement and Opportunity Associate Director.

They join and complement the work of existing MONSE senior lead team members: Rashad A. Singletary, Gun Violence Prevention Associate Director; Nick Wilson, Policy and Research Associate Director; and Brianne Young, Finance Associate Director.

Now fully formed, this team is charged with advancing the work of the agency and carrying out the implementation and coordination associated with Baltimore's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan.

Over this period, MONSE also onboarded staff in seven other roles, including a:

- **Re-Entry Coordinator**,
- second **Grants and Contracts Coordinator**,
- **Community Partnership Manager** associated with the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS),
- **Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Deputy Director**,
- **CVI Operations Manager**,
- second **CVI Outreach Liaison**,
- and **Executive Assistant**.

MONSE is preparing to onboard four additional staff who have accepted offers for the following roles, starting work in the next quarter:

- **Data Analytics Deputy Director,**
- **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Policy Manager,**
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Response Manager,**
- **and Training Coordinator.**

MONSE currently has eight vacant positions and is actively working to fill these roles.

## **MONSE Quarterly Updates - By Lane**

### ***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. Particularly in Baltimore’s Black neighborhoods, which have borne the brunt of gun violence over decades, this trauma has been compounded year after year, incident after incident.

Expanding and strengthening victim services is a priority in Baltimore’s public safety strategy and one of MONSE’s areas of focus. This is a new area of focus for the agency; Victim Services did not exist as a lane in MONSE’s predecessor agency, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ).

The Victim Services team has laid a strong foundation for intentional coordination with a trauma-informed approach. MONSE’s Victim Services team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Established the first convening of the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team in January and held three meetings.
- Laid the foundation for expanded Victim Services to gunshot survivors to have a more direct, immediate impact on victims of gun violence, securing resources and potentially mediating residual conflicts.
- Extended the hours of operation of the Baltimore City Visitation Center, a safe place where families with histories of domestic violence can engage in visitation between children and their visiting parents in a monitored setting or can

participate in monitored exchanges of children for weekend visits with their non-custodial parents. These services are now offered weekly instead of bi-weekly.

### ***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:

- Reviewed and approved the first round of grant applications from Community-Based Organizations for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.
- Began implementation of SideStep Pre-Arrest Youth Diversion pilot in the Western Police District.
- Continued its pilot work of Neighborhood Policing Plans (NPPs) with the Fayette Street Outreach/Penrose and Brooklyn/Curtis Bay communities.
- Began developing the framework for a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) pilot in the Western and Southern Police Districts, aligned with the Mayor's recent inter-agency directive to address vacant buildings.

### ***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:

- Closed out a backlog of previous contracts spanning FY 2019 to FY 2021, which the agency inherited from the past administration.
- Worked closely with the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs (MORP) to ensure appropriate accounting for the Mayor's \$50 million violence prevention investment.
- Drafted MONSE's FY 2023 budget.

### ***Gun Violence Prevention***

The record levels of gun violence in our communities are the primary barrier to sustainably addressing Baltimore's most pressing inequities – joblessness, homelessness, poor education, and health – as we build broad systems to address all social determinants of health affecting Baltimore residents.

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

MONSE's Gun Violence Prevention team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Began implementation of Baltimore's Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) in the Western Police District.
- Developed a framework for a Community Violence Intervention (CVI) ecosystem that includes not only violence intervention programming but also victim services, intensive life coaching, hospital-based response, and other wraparound supports, a marked shift in strategy from past efforts that involve incomplete, disparate, and one-off efforts and initiatives. This strategy will be announced publicly early in the next quarter.
- Finalized the findings and recommendations of MONSE's internal evaluation of cultural and operational norms associated with Baltimore's 10 current Safe Streets Baltimore sites — with a focus on providing greater support, safety, training, and career pathway development for the city's violence interrupters,



while providing stronger accountability and oversight of the program as a whole. These findings and recommendations will be released publicly early in the next quarter.

## ***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 will also be home to the agency's in-house data capacity, which will be stood up in the next quarter.

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

- Facilitated one Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) meeting.
- Facilitated three Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) meetings.
- Testified in 10 State legislative hearings before the Maryland General Assembly.

Additionally, MONSE has submitted testimony for the following pieces of legislation:

- **[SB 165 - Juvenile Court – Jurisdiction](#)**  
Enacting the Juvenile Justice Reform Council policy recommendation to “End the automatic charging of juveniles as adults and require all court proceedings involving juveniles to begin in the juvenile court system.”
- **[SB 884 - Driver's Licenses - Suspension for Child Support Arrearages - Exception](#)**  
Repeals the current practice of suspending driver's licenses after missing two months of child support payments for those making less than \$39,000 annually.
- **[HB 1199 - Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees](#)**  
Establishes a workgroup to study the impact of court-mandated fines and fees on low-income residents and develop legislative recommendations for reducing court-mandated fines and fees.
- **[SB 587 - Division of Parole and Probation - Duties - Offenders Under Supervision \(Parole and Probation Performance Act\)](#)**  
Requires the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) to review incidents involving the murder of an individual under community supervision and murders committed by individuals under supervision, as well as share data and recommendations with the Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

- [\*\*HB 1005 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Community Violence Prevention Services\*\*](#)  
Adds certified Violence Prevention Professionals (VPP) to the list of recognized health care providers that are eligible for reimbursement under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.
- [\*\*HB 659 - Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention \(Jaelynn's Law\)\*\*](#)  
Requires that firearms be stored unloaded and in a secure manner, creates a three-tiered penalty system, and requires the State Department of Health to develop relevant public education materials.
- [\*\*HB 425 - Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms\*\*](#)  
Regulates unserialized firearms and certain unfinished frames and receivers.
- [\*\*HB 441 - Baltimore City - Pretrial Release of Defendant - Notice\*\*](#)  
Requires the Office of the State's Attorney and the Court to provide notice to the arresting law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the release of a defendant before trial charged with certain violent crimes.
- [\*\*HB 211 - Criminal Procedure - Warrantless Arrest - Straw Purchase Participant\*\*](#)  
Increases the penalties for knowingly being a participant in a straw purchase of a firearm by elevating the crime from a misdemeanor to a felony.
- [\*\*HB 153 - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense\*\*](#)  
Repeals an exemption in current law which states a person cannot be prosecuted for sexually assaulting his or her legal spouse.

## ARPA Violence Prevention Investment

MONSE is dedicated to the co-production of public safety in all of Baltimore’s neighborhoods, through partnerships with Baltimore’s residents, community-based organizations, institutions, businesses, and agencies to stem the tide of violence, while simultaneously unearthing its root causes.

Mayor Scott announced \$50 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding over the next three years to MONSE to fund violence prevention efforts, including community violence intervention, victim services, youth justice, re-entry, and community healing. This investment will support essential components of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS), expand Baltimore's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) ecosystem and victim services, and fund re-entry programs and trauma-informed practices.

In February 2021, Mayor Scott and MONSE announced the first round of recipients for ARPA dollars targeted at improving public safety outcomes for our city. The distribution of awards - totaling \$17,615,000 - is directly aligned with the Scott Administration's charge to co-produce public safety with the Baltimore community.

The first-round allocation to community-based organizations and other institutional partners is outlined below:

Organization	Grant Amount	Grant Timeframe	Strategy
<b>MONSE Strategic Partnerships - CVPP</b>			
<b>Baltimore Ceasefire</b>	\$75,000	Multi Year	Neighborhood Stabilization Response
<b>Baltimore Civic Fund</b>	\$75,000	Multi Year	Stipends for Community Grant Reviewers
<b>Baltimore Community Mediation Center</b>	\$300,000	Multi Year	Neighborhoods - Evaluation - Listening Tours
<b>Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)</b>	\$12,690,000	Multi Year	Re-Entry - Participant Wages - Returning Citizens Behind the Wall Initiative

<b>Healing City Baltimore</b>	\$900,000	Multi Year	Youth and Trauma - Operating Support
<b>Roca</b>	\$75,000	Multi Year	Neighborhood Stabilization Response
<b>Sage Wellness</b>	\$750,000	Multi Year	Gun Violence - CVI - Mental Health Support
<b>Tuerk House</b>	\$50,000	Single Year	Community-Based Harm Reduction and Addiction Services
<b>TurnAround Inc.</b>	\$300,000	Multi Year	Victim Services - Proactive Human Trafficking Investigations
<b>TurnAround Inc.</b>	\$375,000	Multi Year	Gun Violence - CVI - Survivor Wraparound Services
<b>UMB ROAR Center</b>	\$1,500,000	Multi Year	Gun Violence - CVI - Survivor Wraparound Services
<b>University of Baltimore</b>	\$100,000	Single Year	Neighborhood Capacity Assessment
<b>We Our Us</b>	\$75,000	Multi Year	Neighborhood Stabilization Response
<b>We Our Us</b>	\$250,000	Single Year	Gun Violence - CVI Expansion
<b>MONSE Competitive Grant Portal Applicants</b>			
<b>Roberta's House</b>	\$50,000	Single Year	Youth Service Grief and Emotional Wellness Program
<b>Wisdom Projects, Inc.</b>	\$50,000	Single Year	Community Healing for Peace and Nonviolence in the McKim-BWP Partnership
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,615,000</b>		

MONSE will initiate the contracting process with these organizations over the next quarter.