

# THE BALTIMORE CITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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## MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 9, 2013 MEETING

**Council Members In Attendance\*:** Chair Judge Barry Williams; Warren Alperstein, Bar Association of Baltimore City; Kimberly Barranco, CJCC Executive Director; Commissioner Anthony Batts, Baltimore Police Department; Gregg Bernstein, State's Attorney; Tammy M. Brown, Governor's Office; Jay Cleary for Secretary Sam Abed, Department of Juvenile Services; Joe Clocker, Director, Community Supervision, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Major Sam Cogen for Sheriff John Anderson, Baltimore Sheriff's Office; Frank Conaway, Circuit Court Clerk; Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Elizabeth Julian, District Public Defender for Baltimore City; Brian Kleinbord for Attorney General Doug Gansler; Robert Maloney for Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; Secretary Gary W. Maynard, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Bernard McBride, President, Behavioral Health System Baltimore; Rod Rosenstein, U.S. Attorney; Judge Barbara Baer Waxman, Administrative Judge for District Court, Bernard C. "Jack" Young, President, Baltimore City Council.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Tania Araya, Mercy Medical Center; Sulakshana Bhattacharya, MOCJ; Doug Colbert, University of Maryland School of Law; Elizabeth Embry, State's Attorney's Office; Justin Fenton, *The Baltimore Sun*; Natalie Finegar, OPD; Deirdre R. Gardner, MCVRC; Jim Green, BPD; Michael Hanlon, USAO; Kimberly Haven, Maryland Justice Project; Sarah L. Hyre, CJCC; Angela Johnese, MOCJ; Nate Kopunek, IGO; Kara Kunst, Office of the City Council President; Philip Leaf, Johns Hopkins University; Donald Leatherwood, DPSCS; Dorothy Lennig, House of Ruth Maryland; Commissioner Linda Lewis; Lt. Rhonda McCoy, BPD; Colleen Moore, MD Healthcare Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Cassie Motz, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office; Deborah J. Richardson, Baltimore County Department of Corrections; Claire Rossmark, Department of Legislative Services; Monica R. Smith, Baltimore Sheriff's Office; Crista Taylor, Behavioral Health System Baltimore; Bob Weisengoff, DPSCS.

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

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## MEETING DIALOGUE

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and Judge Barry Williams greeted the Council. He welcomed and introduced Judge Barbara Baer Waxman as the new Administrative Judge for District Court.

### **I. CHAIR'S REPORT – JUDGE BARRY WILLIAMS**

Judge Williams requested a motion to approve the September 11, 2013 meeting minutes and they were adopted unanimously. He announced the next meetings will be on November 13 and December 11, 2013. Judge Williams advised that at the November 13, 2013 meeting there will be a presentation by Bernard McBride on Behavioral Health System Baltimore. He stated that Council approval was needed to amend the CJCC MOU to change the

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composition of membership from the President of BSAS Inc. to the President of Behavioral Health System Baltimore. A motion to amend the MOU was made and the Council unanimously approved the amendment. Judge Williams and Mr. McBride signed the MOU amendment. Judge Williams advised that copies of the revised MOU with the signed amendment would be distributed at the November meeting. He called on Elizabeth Julian, District Public Defender, to give a brief report on the recent decision of *DeWolfe vs. Richmond*.

Ms. Julian stated that on September 25, 2013, the Court of Appeals of Maryland decided *DeWolfe v. Richmond* which declared a right to counsel under Article 24 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights for indigent defendants at initial appearances before District Court Commissioners. She stated that the OPD was developing contingency plans to implement the decision and determined that support staff and attorney staff would be needed to comply with the requirement to attend approximately 177,000 hearings statewide annually, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Ms. Julian further explained that the Rules Committee is promulgating rules to implement the decision and it is expected that a mandate will issue from the Court of Appeals after a hearing in the Court on the proposed rules on November 21, 2013. She advised that this decision could not be complied with unless the OPD is allotted sufficient funds and resources to meet this mandate, but that they have been asked to begin communication with local correctional facilities, commissioners and other partners' offices to work out logistics on client access, confidential interviews and representation protocol. She stated the OPD looked forward to working with the CJCC on implementing this important decision.

## **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – KIMBERLY SMALKIN BARRANCO**

Kimberly Barranco also acknowledged the Court of Appeals' decision in *Richmond* and reported that she has contacted representatives from the agencies involved in the booking and initial appearance process to begin working out the details involved in implementing the *Richmond* decision. Ms. Barranco stated that she coordinated a meeting in February 2012 after the initial *Richmond* decision and a great deal of progress was made at that time which can be built upon moving forward. She advised that there is still uncertainty as to when the mandate will be issued and when the necessary Rules changes will become effective. Ms. Barranco stated that in the meantime, the stakeholders will be working diligently to ensure that Baltimore City is prepared at the appropriate time. She thanked everyone for their willingness to collaborate to make the process flow smoothly.

Ms. Barranco advised that an updated electronic version of the contact list with Judge Waxman's contact information will be emailed to Council members shortly and she asked members to please discard any previous versions they may have. Judge Williams thanked Ms. Barranco for her report and called upon Director France for his report.

## **III. CENTRAL REGION REPORT – WENDELL M. FRANCE, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL REGION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

Director Wendell "Pete" France remarked that he is looking forward to working with Council members and agency representatives on the impact of the *Richmond* decision. He advised

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that a copy of the Central Region Statistics Report was provided in the meeting packets for the Council's review and stated he would answer any questions the Council may have about the report.

#### **IV. BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – COMMISSIONER ANTHONY BATTIS**

Commissioner Anthony Batts reviewed the Police Commissioner's Report included in the meeting packet. He reported that as of October 5, 2013 homicides were up 5% with eight more homicides year to date compared to the same time last year. Commissioner Batts advised that non-fatal shootings were up 19% year to date compared to the same time last year. He noted that they are seeing an increase in street and commercial robberies committed using edged weapons and knives. He further advised that total violent crime is down 6% and total Part I crime is down 4% and continues to trend down. Commissioner Batts also discussed the zone at Lexington Market and said this is an area that is critical to economic development. He stated that there has been an 18% crime reduction rate in this area and that they continue to target public spaces for enforcement. Judge Williams thanked Commissioner Batts for his report and asked Deputy Chief Robert Maloney to give the Mayor's report.

#### **V. MAYOR'S REPORT – ROBERT MALONEY, DEPUTY CHIEF, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Robert Maloney thanked Council members for the opportunity to highlight the work of the Mayor's Administration undertaken over the past year to advance criminal justice and public safety goals.

Mr. Maloney reported that since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, he wanted to address the efforts to address violence against women as well as highlight youth violence prevention efforts of the Mayor's Office. He advised that the City's Visitation Center opened one year ago to provide supervised visitation services for families with histories of domestic violence, and after receiving referrals from the District and Circuit Court they are presently serving nine families. Mr. Maloney further reported that the Visitation Center's mission is to provide a safe location at which parents and children may visit in an abuse-free environment that promotes healthy interaction and serves as an access point to additional supportive services. He also announced that the Center would soon expand to provide monitored exchanges to families with histories of domestic violence in order to offer safe alternatives to unsupervised visits and exchanges that can present dangerous situations for victims of domestic violence and their children. Mr. Maloney stated that the Visitation Center is just one tool that the City offers to keep victims of domestic violence safe.

Mr. Maloney reported that on October 8, 2013 the Mayor's Office partnered with the House of Ruth to offer full day training for human resources personnel on recognizing and addressing intimate partner violence in the workplace. He further reported that representatives from over 40 businesses were taught about intimate partner violence and its complexities, laws governing employers' responses to intimate partner violence, and strategies for developing appropriate workplace policies.

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Mr. Maloney advised that through the City's partnership with the House of Ruth, the Lethality Assessment Project has been implemented in all nine police districts. He explained that the Lethality Assessment Project helps the police identify domestic violence victims who are at increased risk of death or serious bodily injury by their abusers, and to connect them to services or emergency housing if needed.

Mr. Maloney discussed the Mayor's Office's support of a bill this past legislative session which will generate revenue to allow the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office to serve court issued protective orders. He advised that in the coming months, service of these protective orders will transition from the Police Department to the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Maloney stated that the Mayor's Office expects to see an immediate impact on the overall service of these orders and provision of returns to the courts. He said that preventing domestic violence is a high priority for the Mayor's Administration and that he and the Mayor look forward to continuing to work with partners to eliminate domestic abuse.

Mr. Maloney reported that another priority for the Mayor's Administration is ensuring that victims of sexual assault feel safe coming forward and have access to qualified advocates, and that cases are fully investigated. He stated that in 2010, the Mayor tasked the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice with revamping the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and overseeing the development of improved training and investigative practices. Mr. Maloney advised that the SART recently released its 2013 annual report which details how they have accomplished these goals and their recommendations for sustaining and exceeding current progress.

Mr. Maloney also discussed efforts to reduce youth violence. He stated that through the support of the Governor's Office for Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Safe Streets Initiative, the High-Risk Youth Prevention and Enforcement Coalition was formed. Mr. Maloney explained that the High-Risk Youth Prevention and Enforcement Coalition is a partnership of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, the Baltimore Police Department, the Juvenile Warrant Apprehension Task Force, Baltimore City Schools Police, the State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department, and the Department of Juvenile Services. He advised that the Mayor's Office has been able to add a new analyst who focuses primarily on youth justice trends and works with a program coordinator and the Coalition to implement prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies. Mr. Maloney reported that the Coalition plans to create a Top-Ten Youth Offender List to focus on high-priority, high-risk youth. Mr. Maloney also discussed Safe Streets Baltimore which aims to prevent homicides and shootings and operates through the Health Department's Office of Youth Violence Prevention. He explained that the program is currently in four neighborhoods: Cherry Hill, Greater Mondawmin, McElderry Park, and Park Heights and stated that in the coming year they aim to develop a new comprehensive youth violence prevention plan.

Mr. Maloney stated that on behalf of the Mayor, he thanked the Council for the partnerships that help make Baltimore a safe city and that the Mayor's Office looks forward to continuing to work together. Circuit Court Clerk Frank Conaway asked how many men are victims of

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domestic violence. Mr. Maloney responded that one of the nine domestic violence homicide victims this year was male, and that he has data he can provide as to male victims of other crimes that are domestically related.

## **VI. SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT – MAJOR SAMUEL COGEN, BALTIMORE CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Major Samuel Cogen gave a PowerPoint presentation to highlight some of the successes the Sheriff's Office has accomplished with the CJCC and some of the solutions the Council has facilitated to assist the Sheriff's Office.

Major Cogen explained that the Court Security Section of the Sheriff's Office consists of 70 Sheriff Law Enforcement Officers, 44 of which are deployed to courtrooms while the remaining 26 are assigned to fixed posts. He reported that within the past year five upgraded metal detector units were positioned and one additional x-ray machine was added to the jury entrance. He stated that from January 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013, the court security section handled 740 defendants taken into custody, 26 ambulance dispatches, two white powder incidents, three evacuations, 928 sweeps with the Sheriff's K-9 team, and 4,808 prohibited items seized at the public entrance. Major Cogen advised that in the same timeframe, the Sheriff's Office was responsible for 728 prisoner transportations and the housing of 836 prisoners.

Major Cogen discussed their Warrant Reduction Plan which closes non-servable historic warrants through review by the State's Attorney's Office followed by judicial recall. He reported that 1,692 warrant cases have been reviewed and administratively closed or recalled. Major Cogen also discussed the Sheriff's Violence Reduction Plan which includes strategies to increase the service of arrest warrants held by the Sheriff's Office, daily deployment of Deputy Sheriffs to assist BPD in patrolling high crime areas, assignment of Deputy Sheriffs to federal task forces focusing on violent crimes, assuming service of domestic violence protective orders, and focusing on crime prevention education and community outreach.

Major Cogen stated that in order to maximize resources and reduce crime, Deputy Sheriffs have been detailed to a number of allied federal law enforcement organizations as task force officers including the United States Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). He added that one of the more successful task forces is the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) where deputies are sworn in as task force officers through the U.S. Marshals to enhance resources. Major Cogen advised that CARFTF has officers from the U.S. Marshals, Maryland State Police, Baltimore Sheriffs, and Baltimore Police and have primarily been working Baltimore Circuit Court warrants. He reported that from January 1, 2013 - August 31, 2013 CARFTF has made 596 arrests, closed 773 warrants, made eight firearm related arrests, seized 44 firearms, made 20 federal arrests, and made 368 felony arrests. He added that 33 arrests were made for domestic violence warrants forwarded to CARFTF and ten warrant arrests were made for domestic violence offenders identified from the Mayor's Office "Lethality List". Major Cogen also reported that 30 arrests of validated gang

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members were made by CARFTF as a result of a focus on gang disruption and efforts to reduce gang activity.

Major Cogen announced that Sheriff John W. Anderson recently added a Deputy Sheriff to a DEA taskforce which leverages DEA resources to assist the Sheriff's Office in serving narcotics violation warrants, provides enhanced intelligence on gang activity and serves to assist in the mission to reduce violent crime in Baltimore City. He also reported that in January 2011, a Sheriff's task force officer began a relationship with ATF Baltimore Group VI and has since participated in several investigations resulting in the seizure of over 300 firearms. Major Cogen informed the Council of the Sheriff's Office's efforts to assist the Baltimore Police Department target high crime areas by providing supplemental criminal patrol. He reported that from July 24 through August 31, 2013, 310 Deputy manpower hours of patrol were utilized, 1,285 business checks were conducted, 425 back-up calls and calls were answered, 51 car stops were made, and 31 moving violations were reported.

Major Cogen stated that in the next few months, the Sheriff's Office will be assuming the service of all protective orders and peace orders issued by a judge in Baltimore City. He said that their Domestic Violence Unit has been formed and is poised to begin operating seven days a week. Major Cogen explained that the Sheriff's Office will be implementing best practice procedures by interviewing victims at the Court level for enhanced service information. He advised that the Sheriff's Office is working closely with the Mayor's Office to implement the new unit and that the Mayor's Office of Information Technology is creating a state of the art database for the Sheriff's Office.

Major Cogen also discussed the Sheriff's Office community outreach initiatives including crime prevention education and providing a security detail at Bell Park Towers. He stated that Deputies were deployed from July 16 through September 7, 2013 in the evening and were able to reduce the fear of senior citizen tenants by removing loiterers and denying access to unauthorized individuals.

Baltimore City Council President Bernard "Jack" Young stated he was concerned about overtime expenditures and asked how the Sheriff's Office overtime initiatives were funded. Mr. Maloney advised that some of BPD's overtime funds have been used to fund the Sheriff's Office. Council President Young stated he would like to see less overtime money used and more funding be given to the Department of Recreation and Parks. Judge Williams thanked Major Cogen for his report and called upon Assistant Attorney General Brian Kleinbord for the Attorney General's report.

## **VII. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REPORT – ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL BRIAN KLEINBORD, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Brian Kleinbord thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and stated that he would like to have their Gang Unit give a presentation in the future to the CJCC on their successes and initiatives with gang violence. Mr. Kleinbord reported that the Attorney General's Office is looking forward to working with Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera. He advised that the Chief Judge intends to transition to a Supreme Court model in deciding cases, and that

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the Court of Appeals will issue its decisions no later than August 31<sup>st</sup> after hearing arguments in a case.

Mr. Kleinbord updated Council members on *Maryland v. King* which held that the Fourth Amendment allows states to collect and analyze DNA from people arrested and charged with serious crimes. He advised that the state's position was that DNA is solely identifying, like a fingerprint, and that there are criminal sanctions in place to prevent law enforcement from utilizing DNA for any other purpose. Mr. Kleinbord reported that the Supreme Court reversed the Maryland Court of Appeals decision and held that when officers make an arrest supported by probable cause, taking and analyzing a cheek swab of the arrestee's DNA is a constitutional police booking procedure.

Mr. Kleinbord discussed *Alston v. State* which was argued before the Maryland Court of Appeals in 2006 and deals with enhanced penalty provisions and the rule of lenity. He explained that the case involves two statutes, each prescribing a different penalty, and that Alston raised the issue that a defendant who has a non-violent felony conviction is not subject to an enhanced penalty under Section 5-133 of the Public Safety Article, which requires that a prior conviction be both a felony and a crime of violence. He reported that the Court of Appeals held in favor of Alston that a felon in possession of a handgun is not subject to the mandatory five years without parole if the prior conviction was for a drug offense, and also held that where two statutes punish the same conduct, but impose different penalties, the defendant is subject to the lesser of the applicable penalties under the rule of lenity. Mr. Kleinbord further explained that since the opinion was issued, the Court of Appeals granted a motion for modification and struck the second part of the holding addressing the rule of lenity as moot. He stated that legislation may be introduced in the next session to address the conflicting statutes.

Mr. Kleinbord updated the Council on the *Merzbacher v. Maryland* case. He stated that the United States District Court granted the defendant's petition for a writ of habeas corpus and ordered the State to reoffer a plea with a ten year sentence. Mr. Kleinbord stated the OAG appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit which reversed the District Court. He further reported that the defendant's recent petition for a writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court was denied. Mr. Kleinbord also briefed the Council on the decision in the case of *Missouri vs. McNeely* where the U.S. Supreme court held that alcohol in the bloodstream does not constitute exigent circumstances to forcibly take an offender's blood sample. He remarked that this case has left unanswered questions and it is unclear whether there would be implied consent for an unconscious defendant.

## **VIII. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS – DOROTHY LENNIG, CHAIR AND LEGAL CLINIC DIRECTOR, HOUSE OF RUTH, LT. RHONDA MCCOY, VICE-CHAIR AND FAMILY CRIMES UNIT COMMANDER, BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND COLLEEN MOORE, MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Dorothy Lennig thanked the Council for inviting the Team to present their 2013 Recommendations. She advised that as a sub-committee of the Domestic Violence

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Coordinating Committee of the CJCC, the DVFRT is comprised of representatives from numerous state and city agencies and health care and service providers. She further stated that its mission is to reduce domestic violence-related fatalities and near fatalities through a systemic multi-disciplinary review of domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities in Baltimore City. Ms. Lennig stated the Team identified two new issues and that all recommendations come directly from the cases that the Team reviews. Ms. Lennig introduced Colleen Moore who discussed the Team's first recommendation.

Ms. Moore stated that the first recommendation is to require health care providers to screen for domestic violence by making IPV questions required fields in electronic charts and requiring that the electronic record automatically repopulate positive IPV screens on subsequent visits. She explained that many health care facilities are converting to electronic medical charts which provide an opportunity to make the IPV screening questions required fields, and she further stated they should be obligatory at least in emergency departments and for all comprehensive visits of females of reproductive ages for substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, depression, and pregnancy and postpartum. She advised that once a medical professional records a positive response in the electronic medical chart, that field should automatically repopulate as a positive screen on subsequent visits. She further advised that in cases where electronic records are made electronically accessible to the patient, the domestic violence questions should not be included in the accessible records.

Lt. Rhonda McCoy presented the second recommendation which is to expand, enhance, and standardize the training provided to all persons working in correctional facilities so they can better recognize and identify the characteristics of domestic violence abusers. She stated that in one of the cases reviewed this year, the victim met her abuser at her place of employment where he was incarcerated and continued the relationship after he was released. Lt. McCoy stated that the Team reviewed the training provided to employees of DPSCS's outside vendors and found that it varied from region to region. She stated that the DVFRT believes that education and training is one of the best ways to combat domestic violence. She advised that expanded training should include a segment about the dynamics of domestic violence so that employees will better understand the characteristics of abusers and that training could be in conjunction with current fraternization in the workplace modules.

Ms. Moore updated the Council on several past medical recommendations. She advised the 2008 recommendation to improve screening for domestic violence in health care settings encouraged the development of the Maryland IPV Task Force which was established in the fall of 2012 at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Ms. Moore explained that the IPV Task Force adapted a simple IPV assessment tool from evidence-based screens and has agreed to promote use of the assessment tool within their respective medical specialties. She advised that the Maryland IPV Task Force assessment tool has been cited as a public health model for other states and in 2014, a training module for medical students, ob/gyn residents and faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine will be piloted.

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Ms. Moore explained that in 2010 the DVFRT recommended that health clinics should include a screen for domestic violence whenever they screen and treat patients for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Ms. Moore advised Maryland was one of six states funded by the Office of Women's Health for "Project Connect: A Coordinated Public Health Initiative to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Women" in January 2013 which is a three year grant to integrate IPV assessment into the Title X Family Planning Program that sees approximately 75,000 women per year. She stated that in addition, the STD program at DHMH made an official commitment to integrate IPV assessment at all their sites using the Maryland IPV Task Force assessment tool.

Ms. Moore also discussed the 2012 recommendation to increase screening and intervention from domestic violence before, during and after pregnancy. She reported that in fiscal year 2014, DHMH received a grant to promote IPV screening among obstetrician/gynecologists in trainings which promote evidence-based domestic violence screening tools coupled with interventions for those who screen positive for domestic violence. Ms. Moore advised that the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine will pilot this project. She also reported that the Maryland Hospital Association has agreed to distribute the DVFRT's Recommendations highlighting the medical-related recommendations to all Maryland hospitals through their e-mail contacts, and the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence will offer training and support to any institution that is interested in adopting any of the recommendations.

Ms. Lennig stated that a problem identified in the 2007 report concerned the large number of victims of fatal domestic violence who never accessed potentially life-saving services. She advised that in an effort to decrease domestic violence-related homicides by increasing access to services, the DVFRT recommended that police administer the lethality assessment screen to victims of domestic violence. Ms. Lennig reported that as of July 2013, the lethality assessment project has expanded into all nine police districts. She stated that the program has been very successful and reported that from November 2009 through August 2013, the House of Ruth Maryland has received 11,336 screens and reached 5,376 people (47%), enrolling 1794 (34%) of them in services

Ms. Lennig also gave an update to one of the Team's 2009 recommendations advocating for the creation of an enhanced response protocol involving a high danger safety plan that incorporates safety precautions appropriate for victims who are at the highest risk of being murdered. She reported that the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence applied for funding to address this recommendation and if funded, will convene a team of domestic violence advocates who will develop an enhanced response protocol for high danger cases and statewide protocols for high risk safety planning and follow up with high risk victims.

Lt. McCoy provided an update to the 2010 recommendation to seek partnerships with clergy. She reported that in 2012, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee of the CJCC formed a workgroup to increase community awareness about domestic violence and to offer outreach to the faith-based community. She further reported that in 2013, the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods assumed

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coordination of the workgroup. Lt. McCoy advised that Judges Karen Friedman and David Young chair the Interfaith Domestic Violence Initiative Committee, which has representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Governor's Office, community advocates, victim service providers, and members of the clergy from numerous denominations. She stated that the Committee has asked clergy from every congregation of every faith in Baltimore City to join together to address domestic violence in their congregations during the weekend of October 25-27, 2013. Lt. McCoy informed the Council that the group held a very well attended breakfast in May 2013 for faith-based leaders to kick-off the initiative, and that an interfaith dialogue was held on October 1, 2013 to share different religious perspectives on the issue of domestic violence and to provide information and resources.

Mr. Conaway asked if there were services available for men who are abused by their partners. Lt. McCoy stated that the Baltimore Police Department takes all cases of domestic violence seriously whether the victim is male or female. Ms. Lennig stated that the House of Ruth provides shelter for men in local hotels. She reported that 9% of the clients of their legal clinic are male. Judge Williams thanked Ms. Lennig, Ms. Moore and Lt. McCoy for providing this year's Recommendations to the Council.

Judge Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 12:30 p.m., Courthouse East, Room 510.

## **MEETING HANDOUTS**

- 1) Minutes from the September 11, 2013 meeting
- 2) Central Region Statistics Report
- 3) The Police Commissioner's Report
- 4) The Sheriff's Office's PowerPoint Presentation
- 5) The Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team's 2013 Recommendations
- 6) The Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team's PowerPoint Presentation

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kimberly Smalkin Barranco  
Executive Director