

# THE BALTIMORE CITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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## MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 8, 2014 MEETING

**Council Members In Attendance\*:** Chair Judge Barry Williams; Kimberly S. Barranco, CJCC Executive Director; Tammy M. Brown, Governor’s Office; Jay Cleary for Sam Abed, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services; Major Samuel Cogen for John Anderson, Sheriff of Baltimore City; Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Gregg Hershberger, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Angela C. Johnese for Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore City; Deputy Police Commissioner Dean Palmere for Commissioner Anthony Batts; W. Michel Pierson, Administrative Judge Circuit Court; Tony Torain for Frank Conaway, Clerk of the Circuit Court; Brian Kleinbord for Doug Gansler, Attorney General of Maryland; Barbara Baer Waxman, Administrative Judge District Court; Bernard C. “Jack” Young, President, Baltimore City Council.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Margaret Boyd-Anderson, CJCC; Diana Cheng, M.D., DHMH; Doug Colbert, Maryland Law School; Ernest Eley, Jr., DPSCS; Captain Rhonda McCoy, Baltimore Police Department; Kimberly Morris, District Court; Naka Matsumoto, Citizen; Lisa Phelps, SAO; Claire Rossmark, DLS; Major Sabrina Tapp-Harper, Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office; Kim Trueheart, Citizen; Bob Weisengoff, DPSCS; Kate Wolfson, Safe and Sound Campaign; Stephanie Young-Medina, Circuit Court.

**\*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.

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

Judge Williams requested a motion to approve the September 10, 2014 meeting minutes and they were adopted unanimously. He advised that the next meeting will be held on November 12, 2014. Judge Williams and Council members welcomed Kimberly S. Barranco, CJCC Executive Director who returned to work after experiencing an abrupt medical event. Council members and attendees greeted Ms. Barranco with flowers and a brief standing ovation and applause.

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

Ms. Barranco stated that she is overjoyed to be with all of the Council, her colleagues, and friends. She further stated that she could not thank everyone enough for their support and prayers over the past five months. Ms. Barranco expressed that she is very grateful for the many visits, cards, and phone calls that she received during her recovery. She further shared with the Council that she is returning to work part-time; however, she expects to return full-time by the end of the year.

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Ms. Barranco acknowledged CJCC Project Coordinator Margaret Boyd-Anderson for doing an exceptional job of keeping the Council and its eight Committees on track during her absence. Ms. Barranco said, “Thank you Margaret!” “You have done a terrific job!” Ms. Barranco further acknowledged Judge Barry Williams and Judge Michel Pierson for their tremendous support and for facilitating her return to work while she continues her recovery. Ms. Barranco stated that she is very humbled by the outpouring of concern and well wishes that she has received. She commented that she has been honored to serve as the Executive Director of the CJCC for nearly seven years, and that she looks forward to continuing to work with all of the Council in vigorous pursuit of the mission and objectives of the CJCC.

Ms. Barranco said that in the coming weeks and months as she transitions back to full-time, she hopes that everyone will share their thoughts and ideas with her as to how the CJCC can continue to play a useful role in coordinating initiatives to enhance public safety and reduce crime, to advance the fair and timely disposition of cases, and to ensure justice for those accused of crimes and the victims of crimes. Ms. Barranco again thanked everyone for their support.

Judge Williams thanked Ms. Barranco for her report and he called on Director Wendell “Pete” France for the Central Region report.

### **III. CENTRAL REGION REPORT – WENDELL M. FRANCE, DIRECTOR,**

#### **CENTRAL REGION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. France advised 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. Mr. France notified the Council that Secretary Hershberger made a change to discontinue the name of “Community Supervision” and has re-implemented the name of “Parole and Probation.” Mr. France stated that Walter Nolley was in attendance and is currently the Assistant Regional Director for Parole and Probation. He further stated that official notification of this change from Secretary Hershberger to the Courts will soon be disseminated. Council President Bernard “Jack” Young asked why was the name changed and Mr. France replied that Parole and Probation is a division of Public Safety which manages parolees and probationers who are placed on supervision by the courts.

Judge Williams thanked Director France for his report and he called on Deputy Commissioner Dean Palmere for the Police Commissioner’s Report.

### **IV. BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT –DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DEAN PALMERE**

Deputy Commissioner Palmere advised that he was attending the meeting on behalf of Commissioner Batts who was out-of-town on business. He referred the Council to the Police Commissioner’s Report included in the Council’s packet. Deputy Commissioner Palmere reported that as of October 4, 2014 homicides were down 5% compared to the same time last year. He further reported that the total violent crime is down 13% and the total Part I crime is down 8%. Deputy Commissioner Palmere noted that the total property crime is down 7%, non-fatal shootings are down 16%, and overall total robberies are down 12%. Deputy Commissioner Palmere said that they are on the right path in their crime fighting strategy,

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which includes the gang violent organization strategy. He further stated that BPD is moving forward with their strategic plan and that BPD is determined to stay on course as an agency in addition to continuing relationships with all other agencies involved and pushing crime fighting forward.

Judge Williams thanked Deputy Commissioner Palmere for BPD's report and introduced Angela C. Johnese, Director of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice.

## **V. MAYOR'S REPORT – ANGELA JOHNESE, DIRECTOR OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Angela C. Johnese advised the Council that she would be reporting on behalf of Honorable Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. She further advised that Mayor Rawlings-Blake was presenting along with Police Commissioner Batts at a U.S. Conference of Mayors convened for mayors and police chiefs in Little Rock, Arkansas. Ms. Johnese identified that this conference targets the role of community policing in reducing homicides, gun violence, gang violence, domestic violence, and human-trafficking. Ms. Johnese informed the Council that Mayor Rawlings-Blake sends her regards.

Ms. Johnese highlighted some of the work that the Administration is undertaking to advance the criminal justice and public safety goals for Baltimore City. She thanked the Council and all of the partners seated in the room. Ms. Johnese stated, "most, if not all, we do to prevent crime and reduce violence in the City is done in partnership with you." She further stated that City Hall cannot address or fix the issues that need attention without the partner's collaboration and she looks forward to continuing to work together.

Ms. Johnese reported that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the City of Baltimore has received a \$400,000 continuation grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence against Women to support the Visitation Center, which provides supervised visitation and monitored exchange services for families with histories of domestic violence. She further reported that this grant would provide support to the House of Ruth Maryland's Civil Legal Services Program. Ms. Johnese noted that as of September 30, the Visitation Center had served 31 families and 43 children in addition to providing 305 supervised visits and 16 monitored exchanges since its opening in December 2012. She said that to date, the Center is serving 15 families and that 3 families are going through the intake process. Ms. Johnese explained that the Visitation Center receives referrals from District and Circuit Court and she advised that families benefit from these services. She informed that Ashley Jenifer is the Visitation Center's Director and her contact number is 410-889-2487. Ms. Johnese reported that due to their efforts to reduce domestic violence, a transition was made from the Baltimore Police Department to the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office and that this transition was now complete. She further reported that the Sheriff's Office is serving protective orders for all nine police districts and that an immediate impact has been seen on the overall service of these orders and returns to court.

Ms. Johnese identified that October is Youth Justice Month and she discussed their efforts to reduce youth violence. She further identified that through the generous support of the

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Governor's Office for Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Safe Streets Initiative, they have been able to convene the High-Risk Youth Prevention and Enforcement Coalition, in partnership with the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, Baltimore Police Department, the Juvenile Warrant Apprehension Task Force, Baltimore City School Police, the State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore Health Department, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. She commented that the Coalition is able to implement prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies. Ms. Johnese further commented that in the coming months, they will be developing a new comprehensive youth violence prevention plan and that they are receiving technical assistance from UNITY - Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth. Ms. Johnese reported that UNITY has worked with nearly 20 cities on similar efforts and that during the past week, Baltimore was named a National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention site. She further explained that the Forum aims to build a national conversation about youth and gang violence to increase awareness, drive action, and build local capacity to more effectively address youth violence. Ms. Johnese discussed that as a Forum site, Baltimore will engage in a Federal administration led effort with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and other agencies from across the federal government, corporate partners, non-profit groups, neighborhood and faith-based organizations, and youth representatives to develop and implement a coordinated action plan. She mentioned that the City has applied for a Bloomberg Philanthropies Innovation Delivery Grant to enhance the Violence Crime Reduction Enhancement Initiative- VCREI. Ms. Johnese reported that last July, the Mayor launched VCREI as a comprehensive strategy for systematically responding to and decreasing violent crime in Baltimore City. She said that VCREI includes government agencies, local foundations, community associations, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and community leaders and that it is comprised of six working groups, which includes:

- Preventing and Deterring Crime, which is facilitated by the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice;
- Reducing Youth Violence, which is facilitated by the Baltimore City Health Department;
- Reintegrating and Rehabilitating Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, which is facilitated by the Mayor's Office of Human Services;
- Increasing Transparency and Communications Regarding Crime, which is facilitated by the Mayor's Office of Communications;
- Apprehending and Prosecuting Violent Offenders, which is facilitated by the Baltimore Police Department and the State's Attorney's Office; and
- Measuring and Funding Violent Crime Reduction, which is facilitated by the Office of CitiStat.

Ms. Johnese noted that there is much more work that is related to the crime fight and public safety. She further noted that they are working on survivor services beyond domestic violence with regards to sexual assault, human-trafficking, and child abuse. She stated that they are in the midst of the fourth Public Safety Initiative of 2014 and that they are in Greenmount-Barclay this week. Ms. Johnese further stated that each initiative targets city,

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nonprofit and law enforcement resources to challenged neighborhoods using an Incident Command System to plan and implement the initiative which puts targeted resources in the footprint including BGE, Transportation, Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Fire Department, Human Services, and peer recovery specialists; and concludes with a resource and job fair for residents.

Ms. Johnese concluded by emphasizing how many Council members or their representatives were present last month for the second call-in of the Ceasefire effort and that they continue to see reduced violence in the Western District and are looking to expand to the Eastern District in 2015. Ms. Johnese thanked the Council for the opportunity to share some of what they are doing to make Baltimore a safer, healthier, and stronger city and she thanked everyone for their partnerships. She said that they are looking forward to continuing to work together.

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

Major Samuel Cogen gave a PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted some of the Sheriff's Office accomplishments with the CJCC in addition to several solutions which the Council facilitated that have assisted the Sheriff's Office. Major Cogen reported that the Court Security Section of the Sheriff's Office consists of over 60 Sheriff Law Enforcement Officers who are deployed daily while courts are in session. He further reported that Proactive Court Protection includes specialized patrols, Segway units, X-ray screenings, Magnetometers, Camera monitoring, and K-9 detection. He stated that year-to-date, the court security section has confiscated 2,765 weapons and dangerous items at the public entrances.

Major Cogen detailed that from January 2014-September 2014, there have been 50,762 summonses, subpoenas, and writs forwarded to the Sheriff's Office for service by a Deputy. He further detailed that the Sheriff's Office has received 780 Orders for Foreclosures; 18,701 Warrants of Restitution served; and \$2,573,144.08 dollars have been collected in fines, costs, and fees. Major Cogen thanked the Federal partners who have enhanced the Sheriff's Office's ability to perform their jobs by maximizing resources and with reducing crime by getting their violent crime warrants served. He discussed that there is one Deputy Sheriff assigned to both DEA and ATF. Major Cogen further discussed that there are two Deputy Sheriff Sergeants and four Deputy Sheriffs who are assigned with the U.S. Marshalls. He said that the Sheriff's Office gains federal resources and experience to help serve warrants on violent fugitives, and reduce crime in Baltimore by targeting gangs and guns.

Major Cogen identified that there have been Deputy Sheriffs detailed to a number of allied federal law enforcement organizations as task force officers, which includes a 12 member taskforce group to the United States Marshals Service, Homeland Security, and the Maryland State Police. He further identified that there are two Deputy Sergeants and four Deputy Sheriffs designated as U.S. Marshal's Taskforce Officers. Major Cogen reported that the Sheriff's Office has been working to target violent crime warrants and from January 2014 – October 2014 there were 645 cleared warrants and 478 arrests. Major Cogen highlighted some of the work that involved the Sheriff's Office community outreach initiatives. He reported that there are Community Services Deputy Sheriffs who are assigned full-time to

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deliver Anti-Gang presentations to children and crime prevention presentations to seniors and communities. Major Cogen said that from January 2014- September 2014 there have been 56 Senior presentations; 92 school presentations; 28 church, tenant council, and recreation center presentations, and 13 community outreach events.

Major Cogen introduced Major Sabrina Tapp-Harper, Domestic Violence Unit Commander for the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office.

Major Tapp-Harper presented on the Domestic Violence Unit within the Sheriff's Office. She reported that in June 2014, the Sheriff's Office has taken over citywide the service of Protective Orders from the Baltimore Police Department. She further reported that from June to September 2014, the Sheriff's Office received 988 orders which were previously designated for BPD and out of these 988 orders; the Sheriff's Office has made service on 657. Major Tapp-Harper explained that from June-September 2014 the Sheriff's Office had a 66.4% service rate and from July-September 2014 the service rate was at 71.5%. Major Tapp-Harper advised that there are 13 Deputy Sheriffs in the Domestic Violence Unit and that 2041 Orders of Protection were received from June 2014-September 2014. She further advised that there were 988 District Court TPOs; 918 District Court Peace Orders; and 137 Circuit Court TPOs. She discussed that there have been 12 firearms seized and 143 arrests made while serving Domestic Violence Orders.

Major Tapp-Harper stated that victims of abuse are interviewed by a Deputy Sheriff at Eastside District Court on North Avenue after an Order of Protection has been issued by a judge. She further stated that victims often disclose ongoing previously undetected criminal activity to the Deputy Sheriff conducting the interview and victims will also disclose critical information about the location of the respondent. Major Tapp-Harper shared that a Protective Order and Peace Order Pamphlet is in final form and she informed the Council that the pamphlets were in their packets. She presented Kim Barranco with a large framed version of the pamphlet and she thanked Ms. Barranco for her support in generating the pamphlet to its finalized form. Judge Williams thanked Major Cogen and Major Tapp-Harper for their report and he called on Captain Rhonda McCoy, Diana Cheng, and Lisa Phelps for the DVFRT Committee Report.

## **VI. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS- CAPTAIN RHONDA MCCOY, VICE-CHAIR AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION COMMANDER, BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT; DIANA CHENG, M.D., MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE; AND LISA PHELPS, SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT, OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

Captain Rhonda McCoy thanked the Council for inviting the Team to present their 2014 Recommendations. She advised that the Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (BCDVFRT) was formed as a recommendation out of the CJCC's Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee in 2006 and the Team reviewed its first case in January 2007. She further advised that BCDVFRT has begun its fifteenth case review through a systemic multidisciplinary process and meets on a monthly basis. Captain McCoy said that the Team works with the DVCC on implementing yearly recommendations, which are recognized as a

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model in the state. She further stated that the BCDVFRT mission is to reduce domestic violence-related fatalities and near fatalities through systemic multi-disciplinary review of domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities in Baltimore City; through interdisciplinary training and community based prevention education; and through data-driven recommendations for legislation and public policy. Captain McCoy introduced Dr. Diana Cheng who discussed the Team's first recommendation.

Dr. Cheng stated that the first recommendation is to shift the community's awareness and understanding of how intervention by a bystander who witnesses or suspects domestic violence can make a difference. Dr. Cheng explained that this year during one of the reviews, the Team learned that several people close to the parties were aware of domestic violence but did not intervene. She said that often friends, family members, co-workers, and other bystanders do not intervene because they either do not know what to do or believe it is not their place to get involved. She advised that an outreach effort should be created to inform the community how to intervene when they know or suspect domestic violence is occurring, which can include different interventions for family members, co-workers, and strangers. This effort creates awareness about the issue and gives bystanders the tools and resources to intervene. Dr. Cheng further advised that this effort should also include health care clinicians by encouraging them to discuss healthy relationships with all of their patients. Dr. Cheng said that the health care clinicians should have resources available to disseminate to patients and be familiar with appropriate intervention strategies to offer to family members who want to help people they believe are experiencing domestic violence.

Captain Rhonda McCoy presented the second recommendation which is to create intervention strategies for police responding to escalating domestic dispute cases. Captain McCoy stated in one of the cases reviewed this year, the parties had an extensive history of domestic disputes. She advised that a domestic dispute is when the police respond to a domestic call, but determine that no crime has been committed. In this case, the deceased victim had 19 prior domestic violence contacts and was involved in at least 14 domestic disputes. In domestic dispute cases, the police do not provide all of the domestic violence interventions and services that they would provide to a domestic violence victim. Captain McCoy said that after review, the BCDVFRT believes that the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) should create a strategy for responding to repeat and escalating domestic dispute calls. This might include home visits, friendly knock and talks, or providing the victim the domestic violence information and referrals as a way to de-escalate the situation and prevent it from turning into a domestic violence crime or homicide.

Assistant State's Attorney Lisa Phelps updated the Council on the progress made toward implementation of past recommendations. She reported that this year, the SVU has been working to increase the available evidence in domestic violence cases in several ways, which involves victim subpoenas, 911 recordings, photographs, medical and phone records, SVU and BPD abilities to listen to jail recorded calls, and SAO and Baltimore Sheriff's Office capabilities to work closely to share information. Ms. Phelps highlighted that there has been tremendous success in getting better results by using recorded jail calls in their prosecutions. She said that not only does the use of the recorded jail calls facilitate pleas, but they also are

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very important in protecting victims in domestic violence cases. Ms. Phelps advised that there are five prosecutors who prosecute the misdemeanor domestic violence cases at the North Avenue location. She explained that these prosecutors have been met with challenges to ensure a victim's safety when victims and abusers use the same hallways. Ms. Phelps reported that with the assistance of the Baltimore Sheriff's Office, a small room on the lower level has been made available and victims can now be interviewed in a safe and private location.

Captain Rhonda McCoy reported on the timely service of warrants. She said that the Domestic Violence Warrant Squad along with patrol officers continue to make the service of domestic violence warrants a top priority. She further reported that from September 1, 2013 to August 26, 2014 there were a total of 2003 new domestic violence warrants issued for service. Captain McCoy advised that the Domestic Violence Warrant Squad and patrol officers served 2408 warrants, continuing to reduce the backlog of un-served warrants. She also reported on the progress of another past recommendation which entails creating resources for men who seek to prevent violence in intimate relationships. Captain McCoy said that the House of Ruth Maryland recently completed its 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan, which included a goal for engaging men to use their influence to "model and promote intimate relationships that value respect, equality, and nonviolence." She further stated that they are kicking off this effort this fall by convening a select group of men, which includes successful completers of its abuse intervention programs, agency leaders, and influential community members, to develop targets, messages and strategies to build networks of men invested in ending intimate partner violence.

Dr. Diana Cheng also discussed the 2013 recommendation to increase screening and intervention for Domestic Violence before, during, and after pregnancy. She reported that in 2014, DHMH collaborated with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) to promote IPV screening in the pregnant and non-pregnant population. Dr. Cheng further reported that the project provided funding for training which promotes evidence-based domestic violence screening tools coupled with interventions for those who screen positive for domestic violence. She advised that the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine piloted this project and included training for Hopkins obstetrician and gynecologist faculty, residents, and medical students. The School of Medicine developed educational modules for medical students and residents. She further advised that unique to the project was the training of all Hopkins affiliated clinic staff (from front desk personnel to physicians). Dr. Cheng said that the project has promoted partnerships between clinicians and local domestic violence organizations, including House of Ruth Maryland, TurnAround, and the Family Crisis Center in Baltimore County. Project participants presented at the 2014 Annual ACOG meeting in Chicago to demonstrate a model for training obstetricians in other states.

Captain Rhonda McCoy stated that there are a number of other extensive BCDVFRT updates and she advised that Baltimore is a leader in Domestic Violence. She further stated how Baltimore has received many accolades from various states across the country who has asked for advice on Domestic Violence and how to tackle this issue. Captain McCoy said that Baltimore is dedicated to solving Domestic Violence issues.



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Judge Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 12:30 p.m., Courthouse East, Room 510.

## **MEETING HANDOUTS**

- 1) Minutes from the September 10, 2014 meeting
- 2) Central Region Statistics Report
- 3) The Police Commissioner's Report
- 4) Baltimore City Sheriff's Office Protection Orders and Peace Orders Pamphlet
- 5) Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (BCDVFRT) 2014 Recommendations
- 6) Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (BCDVFRT) 2014 Recommendations - (PowerPoint)

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kimberly Smalkin Barranco  
CJCC Executive Director