Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott greeted Council members and their representatives.

Council Members in Attendance:* Chair Brandon Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore, Chair Audrey J.S. Carrión, Circuit Administrative Judge, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Chair Geoffrey Hengerer, District Administrative Judge, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Dorothy Lennig, designee for the Governor of Maryland, Catherine Flynn, designee for the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Lieutenant Colonel Derek Loeffler, designee for the Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department, Marguerite Lanaux, District Public Defender, Baltimore City and Co-Chair of the Community Justice Committee, Angelina Guarino, designee for the Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Co-Chair of the Interagency Data and IT Committee, LaShae Nicholson, Deputy Director of Operations for the Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Kelvin Harris, designee for the Commissioner, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Betsy Fox Tolentino, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services, Stefanie Mavronis, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Patricia Johnson, designee for Clerk of the Court, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Linda Lewis, Administrative Commissioner, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Crista Taylor, President and CEO, Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Thomas Maronick, Jr., Private Defense Bar Representative, Bar Association of Baltimore City.

Others in Attendance:* Kimberly Barranco, Director of the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Judge James Green, District Court of Maryland, District 1 and Chair of the Warrant Committee, Judge Diana Smith, District Court of Maryland, District 1 and Chair of the Pretrial/Post Arrest Committee, Judge David Aldouby, District Court of Maryland District 1 and Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, Tania Araya, Director of Programs, Turnaround, Inc. and Chair of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, Jade Brown, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Kara Aanenson, Department of Juvenile Services.

Absent: Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland, Anthony Brown, Maryland Attorney General, Ivan Bates, State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Richard Worley, Commissioner,

Baltimore Police Department, Carolyn Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Kimberly Bey, Commissioner, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Zeke Cohen, Council President, Baltimore City Council, James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland, Sam Cogen, Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, Xavier Conaway, Clerk of the Court, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Mary Abrams, Administrative Clerk, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Cory McCray, Baltimore City Delegation Senator, Marlon Amprey, Baltimore City Delegation Delegate.
*We request that all in attendance sign the attendance sheet which is available at each meeting

Approval of the July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Scott asked members if they had any edits to the July 8, 2026 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved without objection.

Chairs' Reports

Mayor Brandon Scott:

- The Mayor reported sustained reductions in crime, specifically an 18% reduction in homicides and a 5% reduction in non-fatal shootings this year, building on historic reductions from the previous year.
- He further reported a 16% reduction in burglaries, a 44% reduction in carjackings, and a 13% reduction in robberies.
- While auto thefts have seen a slight increase, they remain far below levels from two years ago.
- The Mayor emphasized the need to prioritize domestic and interpersonal violence interventions and noted the necessity of understanding the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on current youth.

Circuit Court Administrative Judge Audrey J.S. Carrión:

- Judge Carrión announced the retirement of Judge Yvette Bryant effective October 15, 2026, leaving four vacancies in the Circuit Court. She noted that senior judges are currently assisting with dockets and hoped to have the vacancies filled soon.
- Judge Kendra Ausby was recently appointed to the Appellate Court of Maryland, which creates an additional opening. Additionally, Circuit Court Administrator Lionel Moore is retiring effective January 2027, and the recruitment process for this position has begun.

District Court Administrative Judge Geoffrey Hengerer:

- Judge Hengerer congratulated Judge Ausby and noted that she will be filling an at-large spot, which is a testament to the caliber of the Baltimore City bench.
- He reported that all is well at the District Court.

- He acknowledged the passing of District Court Senior Judge George Lipman on August 3, 2026, a trailblazer in the mental health space. He noted his passing is a tremendous loss and expressed appreciation to the Baltimore Police Department and the Sheriff's Office for providing security for the very well attended memorial service.

Standing Reports

Director's Report:

- Kimberly Barranco advised that the most recent contact list was emailed to members on August 31, 2026, which contains contact information for new designees for Council President Cohen and State's Attorney Bates. She requested that the previous list dated February 25, 2026 be discarded.

Division of Pretrial Detention and Services Report:

- Deputy Commissioner Kelvin Harris provided the Pretrial Detention Report on behalf of Commissioner Kimberly Bey.
- Deputy Commissioner Harris referred to the July 2026 Pretrial Detention and Statistics Report and asked that questions be forwarded to the Division.
- He reported that the Detention Center's youth population in custody currently stands at 66, with 63 males and 3 females, with nine males awaiting transfer to the Department of Juvenile Services.
- The Eager Street Academy school year began on August 24, 2026.
- On August 20, 2026, Maryland judges visited the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women for a facility tour and department round table.

Baltimore Police Department Report:

- Lieutenant Colonel Derek Loeffler advised that he had nothing further to add to Mayor Scott's report.

Department of Juvenile Services Report:

- Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino provided the report.
- Secretary Tolentino shared a written report with key updates and data charts.
- She reported the transition from the "Safe Summer" initiative to the "Safe Return to School" initiative, noting the success due to cross-agency collaboration.
- Preparation is underway for the October 1, 2026 implementation of Senate Bill 323, which changes the criteria for automatic adult charging for 16- and 17-year-olds charged with misdemeanor handgun violations and first-degree assault.
- DJS is collaborating with stakeholders to ensure timely waiver reports are submitted to the court.
- The Department is strengthening their coordination with Baltimore City Public Schools to support school re-engagement, improve information sharing, and address emerging safety concerns.

- Data presented showed a downward trend in Baltimore City juvenile complaints since 2015.
- Secretary Tolentino reported on 2026 Juvenile complaints by offense and noted that 45% are misdemeanors (not including handgun violations), 26% are crimes of violence, and 17% are felonies.
- Currently, there are 92 youth in detention at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center: 26 are youth charged as adults, 22 are pending placement in a treatment program, and the rest are pending Juvenile matters.
- She also provided data regarding the number of juveniles on committed placement and probation aftercare, which is steady.
- Judge Carrión reported that Judge in Charge of the Juvenile Division Charles Blomquist is organizing a workgroup to update the Differentiated Case Management Plan to address changes due to Senate Bill 323.
- Secretary Tolentino stated that DJS has created a data dashboard to track the number of complaints and timeliness of waiver report requests.

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Update:

- Kimberly Barranco reported initial discussions for the SIM mapping process have begun, with the event projected to occur between February and May 2027.
- Dr. Daniel Jarvis, Director of Special Populations at the Behavioral Health System Baltimore, will chair the planning workgroup which will be responsible for identifying the participants for the two-day mapping session.
- The planning workgroup will have representatives from the behavioral health, law enforcement, and criminal and legal systems, including Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department/EMS, the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Pretrial Release Services, the Courts, the Court Commissioner, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Division of Parole and Probation, and the Mayor's Office. Each participating agency will have one representative for the 12-week planning process.
- Potential dates and locations are currently being identified, and Secretary Tolentino suggested the Fugett Center at Catholic Charities due to its capacity and available parking.
- Once the members for the planning workgroup are confirmed, the Center of Excellence staff at GOCPP will conduct an initial consultation call and the planning process for the mapping will begin.

Presentation on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) Report and Recommendations:

- Tania Araya, Director of Programs at Turnaround, Inc. and Chair of the DVFRT presented two recommendations developed from the team's review of two intimate partner violence-related homicide cases in the last fiscal year.
- She reminded members that the DVFRT's mission is to reduce domestic violence-related fatalities and near fatalities through systemic multidisciplinary review, interdisciplinary training and community-based prevention education, and data-driven recommendations for legislation and public policy.
- During the review of a case involving an intimate partner violence-related homicide in which children were present in the home, the team identified that Baltimore Police Department (BPD) Policy 1206 contains outdated agency references and no longer reflects the current coordinated response for child witnesses of intimate partner violence fatalities involving parents or other caregivers.
- The Team recommends that BPD update the policy to reflect current agency partners, roles, and referral practices.
- BPD should establish clear, trauma-informed procedures for identifying and connecting child witnesses and caregivers to assessment, advocacy, and supportive services.
- BPD should ensure the revised policy is disseminated to and reviewed with homicide detectives and other appropriate personnel.
- The second recommendation urges employers to improve their responses to intimate partner violence by training staff to recognize indicators of abuse and connect employees with service providers.
- During another case review, the team noted visible signs of abuse were observed in the workplace before a victim's death, highlighting a missed opportunity for earlier identification and intervention.
- The Team recommends that workplace awareness, policies, and response protocols be strengthened.
- Supervisors should be trained to recognize indicators of IPV, respond safely, and connect employees to specialized services.
- Clear referral pathways should be established, and domestic violence providers should be engaged for training, education, and technical assistance.
- Ms. Araya advised that the purpose of the recommendations is not to place blame but to improve the overall system response to domestic violence.
- Mayor Scott noted that while the City can mandate certain training for its employees, it is a challenge to encourage private employers to participate in domestic violence training.
- Catherine Flynn suggested exploring the possibility of engaging major health insurance companies to provide resources as part of their wellness suites.

- Stefanie Mavronis noted that MONSE's Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Team has developed a self-guided module for City employees in Workday that could potentially be adapted for use by private sector partners.
- Mayor Scott thanked Ms. Araya for her presentation.

Work of the CJCC Committees

Warrant Committee – Chair Judge Jim Green

- Judge Green thanked stakeholders for their continued assistance in providing data and identifying individuals with outstanding detainers and warrants.
- He reported that the committee continues to address the backlog of detainers through two virtual dockets in August which resulted in a reduction of approximately 50 detainers, eliminating the need for costly transportation and providing substantial human capital savings.
- The State's Attorney's Office upon further review used their prosecutorial discretion to nol pros 24 cases and those warrants were recalled.
- This initiative led by Judge Hengerer and in conjunction with Chief Judge Morrissey is serving as a pilot for the state.
- He discussed the work of the statewide JRA committee which is seeking a Maryland Rules change to further address the issue.
- Additionally, BPD has successfully reconciled 17,000 open warrants which results in better use of deployment resources.
- Judge Green acknowledged Sergeant Zachary Novak for his instrumental work on the creation of a BPD dashboard to address warrants.
- Two additional dockets have been scheduled for both September and October to further address the warrant backlog.

Pretrial/Post Arrest Committee – Chair Judge Diana Smith

- Judge Smith advised the committee meets every other month and last convened on July 15, 2026; the next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026.
- She reported that the committee formed a workgroup to address the provision of electronic discovery, including body-worn camera and CCTV footage, to pretrial detainees.
- The workgroup meets monthly and last met on August 4, 2026; the next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2026.
- The workgroup has determined a pilot program will be conducted at the Baltimore City Booking and Intake Center for felony cases with both pro-se and represented detainees.
- One option for the provision of discovery is to download discovery onto a thumb drive which would need to be delivered in person by counsel. Current policies

classify thumb drives as contraband, which the Attorney General's office is currently reviewing.

- As a second option, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is considering utilizing a closed network to review downloaded discovery through a third-party vendor.
- Until a decision is reached by DPSCS as to the two options, the workgroup is at a standstill.
- Other outstanding issues include staffing, scheduling, security, timeline, and custodian of records determinations.
- The Pretrial/Post Arrest committee continues to examine issues regarding electronic monitoring violation warrants issued by the District Court and the consequences when the case is indicted in the Circuit Court.
- The committee is also following potential legislative or Maryland Rules statewide changes to the electronic monitoring process.
- Judge Smith thanked all members of the committee and the workgroup.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee – Judge David Aldouby

- Judge Aldouby reported that the committee meets every other month and last convened on July 23, 2026; the next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2026.
- The committee focuses on streamlining protective order processes and tracking service rates for protective orders as well as gun seizures.
- The committee is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts to establish a dedicated email address for law enforcement to send electronic returns of service.
- The District Court has adopted a new procedure for "no service" cases to avoid placing the burden on the petitioner to contact the liaison. Court clerks now contact the liaison directly, and officers in the liaison's office have been highly effective in providing necessary information, which allows the court to find service by a preponderance of the evidence.
- A protocol has been established within the District Court Clerk's Office to facilitate remote protective order hearings, ensuring they occur on the same day if filed by the close of business.
- The committee is also awaiting data regarding referrals to abuser intervention programs.

Transportation Committee – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Judge Melissa Copeland, Ms. Barranco reported that the Transportation Committee meets quarterly and last met on April 20, 2026. Since the July 20, 2026 meeting was cancelled, the next committee meeting is October 28, 2026.
- The Court continues to work with DPSCS daily to address transportation issues.

Community Justice Committee – Co-Chair Marguerite Lanaux

- Marguerite Lanaux, District Public Defender for Baltimore City, reported that the Community Justice committee last met on May 11, 2026 and will meet again on September 14, 2026.
- The committee is moving forward with two potential programs for emerging adults aged 18 to 25 who are first-time offenders.
- The first program, in partnership with ROCA Baltimore, would target first-time offenders charged with the wear, carry, and transport of a handgun.
- The second program would be modeled after the "Unleashing Potential" program in Ohio, which serves individuals charged with misdemeanors aged 18 to 25.
- The committee is also evaluating the addition of a community member to their group to align with best practices for CJCCs. Youth Engagement Manager Ty-Ron Rice from the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success will attend the next meeting to provide his insight.

Interagency Data and IT Committee – Co-Chair Angelina Guarino

- Co-Chair Angelina Guarino, Assistant Secretary for Data, Policy, and Grants reported that the Interagency Data and IT Committee last met on August 6, 2026 and will meet again on October 1, 2026.
- The committee is collaborating with DJS to identify pathways for sharing data and closing the gap on unique identifiers for juveniles to improve cross-system outcome tracking.
- Mayor Scott agreed that data sharing regarding youth was important in order to drill down and address issues.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team – Chair Tania Araya

- Tania Araya announced that the DVFRT will transition to quarterly in-person meetings at the Center for Hope at LifeBridge and is currently developing a formal written protocol to guide its case review process.
- She thanked the Mayor's Office for facilitating an authorization letter from the Health Commissioner to assist with medical records requests.

Juvenile Case Processing Workgroup – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Judge Charles Blomquist, the Judge In Charge of the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court, Ms. Barranco reported that the workgroup held its last meeting on August 31, 2026, with the next meeting scheduled for October 26, 2026.
- The group continues to focus on case processing, charging, filings, notice to the parties, service to the parties, and hearing scheduling.
- Judge Blomquist is optimistic about concluding the work and presenting a final report at the November 18, 2026 CJCC meeting.

- Judge Carrión expressed appreciation to the Clerk's Office for assigning a senior supervisor to the division, which has significantly assisted in operational progress.

Booking Processes Workgroup – Kimberly Barranco

- On behalf of Chair Patrick Motsay, Chief of the Charging Division at the State's Attorney's Office, Ms. Barranco reported that the workgroup held its last meeting on August 3, 2026, with the next scheduled for September 15, 2026.
- The workgroup meets monthly as it is also time limited.
- The work group is focused on modernizing paper-intensive processes. To assist with this goal, all affected agencies have provided process flowcharts, which have helped the group understand the roles of every agency involved.
- Current efforts are focused on identifying operational choke points, including the processing of on view warrants and out-of-jurisdiction warrants, as well as eliminating duplicative processes such as the redundant printing of criminal histories.
- The group intends to implement improvements regarding FAST referrals, transition processes to virtual formats when feasible, explore potential remote booking for juveniles, and evaluate opportunities to eliminate paper-based procedures.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

No new business was raised. Mayor Scott thanked the attendees and adjourned the meeting. He advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday November 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m., which was rescheduled from the standing meeting date due to the Veteran’s Day holiday.