WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

October 11, 2024

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Executive Order 01.01.2017.30 A (MSAR #11410)

Dear Governor Moore:

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2017.30 A, which requires the Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks (Council) to submit a report to the Governor by November 1 of each year, please accept this letter as fulfillment of the required report.

Pursuant to its charge, this *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2024 Letter* includes information regarding the activities of the Council. It also serves as a follow-up to a report submitted in 2018,[1] and subsequent letters in 2019,[2] 2020,[3] 2021,[4] 2022,[5] and 2023,[6] to highlight the implementation and progress of the Governor's Special Operations Group (GSOG).

In its role to advance Maryland's fight against gang-related crime, the Council created GSOG, a statewide investigative approach designed to improve public safety, in 2019 under the leadership and direction of the Senior Law Enforcement Coordinator (SLEC). With your support, GSOG continues to address the complex challenges posed by gangs and violent criminal networks. This, in turn, reinforces the Council's commitment to protecting Maryland's residents.

In 2024, GSOG provided crucial case support and actionable intelligence across Maryland. GSOG collaborated with local, State, and federal agencies, including Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), to address investigations often linked to Baltimore City.

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[1] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2018). *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2018 Annual Report*. https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCCP/EXORD01.01.2017.30A_2018.pdf
[2] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2019). *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2019 Letter*. https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCCP/EXORD01.01.2017.30A_2019.pdf
[3] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2020). *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2020 Letter*. https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCPYVS/EXORD01.01.2017.30A_2020.pdf
[4] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2021). *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2021 Letter*. https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCPYVS/EXORD01.01.2017.30A_2021.pdf
[5] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2022). *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2022 Letter*. https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCPYVS/EXORD01.01.2017.30A_2022.pdf
[6] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2023). *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2023 Letter*. https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCPYVS/EXORD01.01.2017.30A_2023.pdf

The group also coordinated with the U.S. Attorney's Office and StrikeForce 7 to ensure comprehensive federal collaboration. GSOG remains focused on monitoring and intervening in violent gang activity, yielding essential intelligence on drug trafficking and gang operations, and supporting cases that involve drug trafficking organizations, homicides, and shootings, even when suspects and victims are outside of the city.

In the spring of 2024, GSOG received honor and recognition for its outstanding contribution and dedication in uniting law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals and gangs across Maryland. Since its creation, GSOG has provided invaluable analytical and operational assistance to law enforcement investigators, ensuring the integration of tactics, resources, and intelligence to effectively target these criminal networks.

Between 2021 and 2023, GSOG collaborated extensively with law enforcement coalitions in Baltimore to combat violent crime. GSOG members played a key role by monitoring surveillance cameras, conducting link analyses, supporting covert surveillance, analyzing digital evidence, and carrying out post-arrest interviews and debriefings. Following the tragic murder of an on-duty Baltimore Police Officer, GSOG provided crucial intelligence that directly led to the identification and arrest of the suspects involved. GSOG's efforts have resulted in numerous arrests of violent offenders, and significant recoveries of illegal substances and drug-related assets.

One notable case example underscores the value GSOG brings to its local, State, and federal law enforcement partners. During a Maryland State Police (MSP) criminal enforcement operation in Glen Burnie, GSOG was tasked with debriefing arrested individuals and providing intelligence and analysis. A subject, arrested after fleeing an attempted traffic stop and striking a law enforcement vehicle, was debriefed by GSOG. The subject provided information about a mid- to high-level drug dealer, whom GSOG positively identified. This information led to the identification of a major multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) with ties across the United States and internationally.

In tracing drug trafficking operations back to their international origins, GSOG was vital in dismantling a supply chain, as it allows law enforcement to identify and target the top-tier traffickers and global networks responsible for distributing drugs. This comprehensive approach helps disrupt the flow of illegal substances at the source, weakening the infrastructure that sustains violent criminal organizations both domestically and abroad.

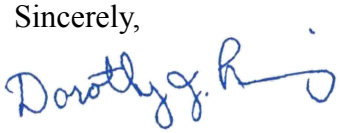
Taking down violent drug traffickers is critical to safeguard Maryland communities and restore public safety. These criminal organizations fuel violence, perpetuate addiction, and destabilize neighborhoods by flooding them with illicit drugs and dangerous firearms. Disrupting their operations not only reduces drug supply but also weakens the criminal networks responsible for homicides, shootings, and other violent crimes. By targeting and dismantling key players in these organizations, GSOG significantly reduces the threat posed by violent traffickers, protects vulnerable populations, and helps rebuild trust in affected communities. GSOG's continued efforts have been instrumental in disrupting and dismantling criminal networks, making a significant impact while enhancing overall safety and security across Maryland.

GSOG continues to provide essential case support to local, State, and federal law enforcement agencies. Through this collaboration, agencies combine resources, expertise, and intelligence to effectively target high-priority criminals and their networks. By leveraging shared criminal intelligence, investigators can build stronger cases against individuals and organizations involved in criminal activities. GSOG also enhances the effectiveness of law enforcement operations which significantly improves the safety and security of Baltimore City and the broader community, and ultimately leads to the successful dismantling of violent criminal organizations.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

As required, five color copies will be sent to the DLS Legislative Library.

Sincerely,



Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)