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Maryland, Baltimore City Strategic Partnership Formed to Curb Youth Violence

Baltimore, MD – Today, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, the Mayor’s Office, the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, and the Baltimore Police Department formed a strategic partnership to curb youth violence in Baltimore City. This collaboration will make a positive impact by improving public safety, supporting our communities, and enhancing interventions for youth in Baltimore City. The partnership was announced by Governor Larry Hogan earlier today at a press conference in Baltimore City.

A credible and successful crime fighting strategy must include critical system stakeholders. Through this partnership, DJS will align community case management resources with Baltimore City police districts to engage a regional service delivery model. Additionally, the group will develop a youth accountability process to appropriately intervene in the Baltimore City juvenile cases that do not go to court by providing supervision and services to more youth. Finally, DJS will detail Assistant Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino to oversee the efforts in Baltimore City and to unify and coordinate a comprehensive and effective juvenile crime strategy.

“I am excited to work together with our Baltimore City partners to enhance and create new initiatives that will ensure the successful support of our young people and the community,” said DJS Secretary Sam Abed. “DJS is committed in reducing the number of violent youth crimes through the work of this collaboration.”

“Baltimore City is thrilled to be working more closely with the Department of Juvenile Services in this new collaboration,” said Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young. “This partnership will help us better identify and activate the ecosystem of services and resources available to help our young people.”

"This collaboration will ensure that we have successful outcomes for opportunity youth while also implementing effective systems of accountability for those young people who are determined to commit acts of violence in our City," said Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison. "The resources that DJS is dedicating to Baltimore to assist in our comprehensive violence reduction efforts represent another source of additional capacity that is greatly needed and much welcome."

The strategic partnership is scheduled to meet in the coming weeks to discuss next steps in tackling the issue of youth violence.

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