

NEWS

from the



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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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BALTIMORE POLICE AND DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES JOIN FORCES TO SEARCH FOR JUVENILES

BALTIMORE, MD—(July 9, 2008). The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) completed a joint initiative to search for youth with outstanding warrants last month and have begun a new program to conduct curfew checks. The warrant initiative was a public safety collaborative to find youth who were at the greatest risk of becoming victims or suspects in crimes of violence and reduce the backlog of warrants in the system.

“Young people who have committed crimes are at great risk of re-offending or becoming victims of violence themselves,” said Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon. “It is critical that these young people are found, held accountable, and given the treatment and supervision that will put them back on a path towards productive adulthood.”

The warrant initiative ran from May 27th to June 27th reducing the number of juvenile warrants in the system from 860 to 540. A total of 162 juvenile warrants were served, the remaining warrants were recalled or quashed. A total of 115 individuals were located, many of whom had multiple warrants. Thirty eight of the youth were identified as top priorities for service and two youth found were in possession of handguns at the time the warrants were served. There were a total of 1,158 attempts made to locate these youth.

“For the first time DJS is taking responsibility for finding these youth and working with the police to locate them. We need to ensure youth under DJS custody are located and safe. Too many youth have been lost to violence on Baltimore City streets and we need to be proactive in preventing any further deaths,” stated Secretary DeVore.

“Serving juvenile warrants and making sure that young people under DJS supervision are out of harms way and out of trouble gives us a chance to interrupt the pattern of violence that plagues too many communities,” said Police Commissioner Fredrick Bealefeld. “We have an effective partnership with DJS, and we are committed to working together to address juvenile crime.”

DJS, BPD, and Baltimore City have also embarked upon unprecedented collaborations. Together, the City and these agencies have been working jointly on unannounced curfew checks for DJS youth, and the co-location DJS staff with law enforcement in both the Baltimore Police Department Watch Center and the Baltimore City Curfew Center. Having staff co-located affords DJS the opportunity to respond immediately to the needs of our youth and sends the message that they will take appropriate action if youth are not complying with the conditions of their supervision.

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