



COMMITTED TO

Crime & Public Safety

Public Safety

Baltimore is in the midst of a violence and crime crisis. Having grown up in Cherry Hill as one of five boys, I experienced firsthand the detrimental effects of poverty, addiction and violence. My family faced the challenges too many young people and families in Baltimore are still facing today – a parent in recovery, jobs that did not pay enough for us to secure safe housing, a need for welfare and food stamps just to barely get by, heat and water cut off because my parents couldn't pay the bills even though they worked hard. These are my roots and they're what drives me to make Baltimore a better, fairer, safer place for all.

Violent crime is tearing communities apart, driving families and business out of the city, and cutting the lives of our loved ones short. Last year alone, we saw the highest per capita homicide rate in our city's history. This cannot continue.

Being raised in Cherry Hill, I saw first-hand the root causes of various levels of crime and violence in our city and how they destroy lives, families, neighborhoods, and communities. Our crime fighting strategies need to consider this dynamic and allot the appropriate resources in a targeted manner. My public safety platform will take these current realities into account as we identify the most effective ways to combat crime and identify additional resources to be brought to communities.

Our current elected officials are not being held accountable or acting with the urgency we need to address the crime crisis plaguing our city. It's time for us to act rather than continue to sit on the sidelines.

As mayor, I will make it my top priority to end the violence in Baltimore. While sustainable reduction in violence will take a systemic approach, we must act immediately with tactical and strategic initiatives to reduce the crisis of violence today.

Baltimore's Crime Crisis

CHALLENGE: Baltimore faces highest homicide rate in the city's history and a pervasive sense of hopelessness on our ability to impact crime levels

VISION: Reduce homicides by 25 percent in first term

OUR APPROACH: Build a coalition of experts

Building safer communities starts with rooting out gun violence. My most immediate action will be to pull together a coalition of leading crime fighting and public health experts across the region and work with them to build a plan to end this cycle of violence.

Ending the crime crisis can't wait. Lives are lost every day. That's why I will begin building a solution even before I'm sworn in. Immediately after I win the election, I will work with my coalition of thought leaders and changemakers and develop a tactical plan to address the immediate crisis of crime facing our city. The plan will focus on real solutions and tactics that can be implemented immediately. To ensure I and my team are held accountable, the plan will include the ongoing measurement of results, which I will share with all the citizens in Baltimore through a real-time, online dashboard.

Our coalition of crime fighters, thought leaders and experts will be open to all possible solutions to address the immediate crime epidemic, as well as longer-term solutions.

The current crime-fighting strategies being used in our city clearly are not working and have not worked for prior administrations for many years. You only need to visit our hardest hit neighborhoods to know that and to see the human toll of this failure. By employing strategic partnerships, we will introduce innovative solutions to combat the city's immediate crises.

A cohort of cities, including Oakland and Philadelphia, have implemented comprehensive gun violence reduction strategies that have proven effective in reducing violent crime. As soon as I win the election, I will meet with leaders from these and other cities to tap their experience and expertise and learn what proven strategies we can adapt to the challenges we face in our city. We must bring those strategies and resources together to make a difference from day one. I know Baltimore has the funding, resources and brainpower to make this happen.

As a successful businessman and entrepreneur, I have a more than 30-year history of building successful partnerships, coalitions and strategies to get things done. This will be the most important coalition that I have ever built, because it will save lives and move Baltimore in a new, better direction.

CHALLENGE: Lack of trust between police and minority community

VISION: Rebuild trust between the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and the minority community

OUR APPROACH: More feet on the street and improved BPD policies, training, recruiting and accountability

For realistic and successful change to happen and endure, the Baltimore Police Department must earn the trust of the residents who live in the communities they serve – especially in those communities that are most heavily impacted by poverty, crime, addiction and violence. Conversely, residents of the communities that the BPD serve must appreciate the difficult and dangerous job that police officers are confronted with and recommit to respecting them and allowing them to do their job. Additionally, we must emphasize the accountability of not just the leadership of the BPD but also every individual officer to ensure residents feel they can trust and rely on the police who serve their communities. There exists an inherent mutual dependency between the police officers and citizens. Neither can be successful or safe without the help of the other.

Growing up in Cherry Hill, I witnessed and experienced the debilitating cost of racism, racial profiling and other corrupt actions by those who should have been protecting, leading and building up our communities.

I will work closely with Commissioner Harrison to ensure that BPD has the proper funding for training, more foot patrols in communities that will provide opportunities to build trust with our citizens, and for programs to support and protect people who come forward to report criminal activity. I know that without improved policies, training, and recruiting efforts, residents will continue to feel justly distrustful of BPD. But, by strengthening the relationship between police and communities, we can work together effectively to end the crime epidemic destroying so many lives in Baltimore.

I also understand that trust is a two-way street. The lack of connectedness in the city today has fueled crime and violence. For change to come, there must be connectedness within communities and an effort to bridge connections between communities and BPD. We must establish an environment across our city and in our neighborhoods that fosters mutual trust and communication between the police and our residents. We must create more opportunities for police and residents from all communities to interact in a positive way and build mutual respect and long-term relationships that will allow us to tackle the complex issue of crime in Baltimore.