



GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

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FROM: Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

December 18, 2019

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks Letter (MSAR #11410)

Dear Governor Hogan:

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2017.30, which created the Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks (GCGVCN), please accept this letter as fulfillment of the required report.¹

Executive Order 01.01.2017.30 charged the GCGVCN to provide leadership, policy oversight, and the coordination of operational strategies to collect and share relevant data related to violent crime and victimization; to develop a process that would allow for the identification, disruption, and dismantlement of gangs and violent criminal networks through collaboration and comprehensive data sharing; to provide necessary information to prosecutors for the development of gang-related and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges; and to establish performance measures to produce measurable results. Executive Order 01.01.2017.30 also charged the GCGVCN to submit a report to the Governor by November 1, 2018, and each year thereafter, as it relates to its findings and recommendations.

In December 2018, the Council submitted its first report, *Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2018 Annual Report*, and provided recommendations for a crime strategy to combat gangs and violent criminal networks.² This crime strategy consisted of two principal components geared around the creation of a Special Operations Unit, and the

¹ The State of Maryland, Executive Department. (2017). [Executive Order 01.01.2017.30: Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks](#).

² Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. (2018). [Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks 2018 Annual Report](#).

development of a three-stage intelligence approach.³ The GCGVCN believed that the implementation of the proposed crime strategy would increase the safety and welfare of the community, and would change Maryland for the better.

Although the Special Operations Unit and an Intelligence Center will be part of the federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) in Baltimore, the Council discussed, during its two meetings this year, recommendations for the creation of the Governor's Special Operations Group (GSOG). The GSOG will combine resources from law enforcement to target violent criminals and gangs operating in jurisdictions in Maryland. The GSOG will be directed by a Senior Law Enforcement Coordinator (SLEC). The SLEC will provide leadership to this law enforcement team to identify criminal organizations in the state for investigation and prosecution. The intent of this position will serve to reduce violent crime and its impact on victims. An important component of the GSOG is data sharing between the GSOG and the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN). This collaboration will allow for the successful identification and investigation of criminals and their network that create the most problems in the state. Currently, there are 13 MCIN locations throughout Maryland; however, there is interest by Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties to be MCIN jurisdictions. These additions would only enhance the level of data sharing and operational support to the GSOG by MCIN.

Given the foreseen responsibilities of the Strike Force and its specific role in Baltimore City, the GCGVCN recommends the following going forward to address violent crime at the State level:

- Council continues as originally constituted.
- Assume additional objectives that include: criminal justice data governance, coordinated operational initiatives, and developing legislative recommendations.
- Extend invitations for other jurisdictions to participate.

Based on the GCGVCN's recommendations and partnerships in place, our office anticipates that next year's report will capture more insight as it pertains to the council's charge to develop a process that would allow for the identification, disruption, and dismantlement of gangs and violent criminal networks through collaboration and comprehensive data sharing.

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

Sincerely,



V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director

³ It is important to note that the crime strategy also included an Executive Council, a Senior Law Enforcement Coordinator, a Lead Prosecutor, and various data sharing components.