



Eric T. Costello
Baltimore City Council, 11th District

October 24, 2023

Anthony Barksdale
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
City Hall - Room 250
100 N. Holliday St, Baltimore, MD 21202
Via Email Only: anthony.barksdale@baltimorecity.gov

RE: Recent Carjackings and Violent Assaults

Deputy Mayor Barksdale,

Thank you for taking time to talk with me on the phone this morning. As discussed, I woke this morning to news of yet another violent crime. Today's installment was a deeply disturbing assault in Otterbein on the 400-500 blocks of S Sharp St. This specific crime occurred on one of the most well-lit streets in all of Baltimore and directly across from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. It is clear to me that the perpetrators have little fear given the brazen nature of this crime. While I am thankful that it appears the victim was not seriously injured, he joins countless others in our city who will bear the emotional/psychological scars of this violent attack.

Adding to my overall frustration, neither the resident who called 911 at 2:40am and left his number with the 911 operator, nor the Federal Reserve Bank, which has HD cameras all over its campus, has been contacted to retrieve camera footage over nine hours since the incident. As such, I have taken the liberty of reaching out to both parties to retrieve their camera footage for BPD.

This attack follows a weekend of at least 49 similar crimes citywide, of which at least 8 occurred in the South Baltimore Peninsula and Midtown communities. This shakes our collective confidence in this Administration's crime plan. While the murder rate may be declining, that number matters little if Baltimoreans do not feel safe. The explosion in car thefts citywide along with carjackings and violent assaults impact all of us one way or another.

These violent individuals need to be arrested and this pattern of crimes needs to be ended, immediately. I know that you will be meeting later today with BPD Command Staff to discuss these matters and ensure that an appropriate course of action is implemented. Once you have determined the concrete steps BPD is going to take to get this untenable situation under control, please advise so that I may properly inform the communities I represent. Feel free to contact me directly at eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov or 443-499-3555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric T. Costello".

Eric. T. Costello
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