

October 16, 2024
Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

We, the undersigned community association leaders, residents and business owners of Baltimore City, demand the immediate removal of current Maryland DJS Secretary Vincent Schiraldi for the following reasons.

In 2022, The Maryland General Assembly moved the authority to charge juveniles away from locally elected States Attorneys and gave that power to you as the Governor, to be exercised by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). As Governor of Maryland, you select the leader of DJS who now has the authority to detain, supervise and charge juveniles. DJS Secretary Schiraldi has shown in his nearly two-year tenure that his policies and procedures harm society.

Secretary Schiraldi has not served you as Governor or the people of Maryland well. The number of crimes committed by juveniles and the severity of the crimes committed by juveniles in our area since Secretary Schiraldi assumed the role of Secretary of DJS for Maryland is unacceptable. * *See appendix

The Department of Juvenile Services is regularly committing malpractice by failing to detain and effectively supervise violent juvenile offenders who are committing violent acts. DJS is committing civil rights violations that erode public safety and erode community trust. The juvenile offenders who are being released and improperly helped or supervised, are harmed. We have seen multiple examples where the child will go on to commit more crimes or are victimized themselves and killed. DJS fails to effectively supervise at-risk children committing crimes. This violates the constitutional rights of crime victims, victims' families, and the community, along with the at-risk child and their family.

This is not a one off or a series of mistakes. DJS Secretary Schiraldi has implemented policies, procedures that degrade Public Safety. The General Assembly passed in 2022 and modified it in 2023, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act. That law shifted the decision to charge a juvenile from a duly elected states attorney and transferred that to DJS, which is led by Secretary Schiraldi. And we've seen again and again that he's made egregious errors. DJS policy is out-of-line with what any rational person would find acceptable such as not considering robbery as a violent crime. Secretary Schiraldi has a history of not considering Public Safety in his decisions and these outrageous incidents will surely happen again and again because through his DJS policy and practices, juveniles who commit violent crimes and pose a significant public safety risk are not being detained or effectively supervised.

As it always was in Maryland, before this General Assembly changed the law in 2022, the people held their elected local States Attorney accountable by voting them out of office if they failed to consider Public Safety. Now it is your pick, Vincent Schiraldi, who sets these policies for the State of Maryland and Baltimore City. Our only recourse is to reach out to you, the Governor, by petition, to show you why he should be removed. He is failing to protect the public AND the juveniles.

We are depending on your decision because we do not want to refocus this back to the MD General Assembly to again change the law surrounding juveniles to reestablish that the duly elected states attorneys should have the power over who to charge and when. There must be accountability and DJS must be led by someone who believes that juveniles will be supervised in a manner that keeps them safe and keeps the public safe. Director Schiraldi doesn't understand this and has not demonstrated he will be effective.

We are outraged, exhausted with and traumatized by the dysfunction of Vincent Schiraldi's DJS. With our signatures, we, the undersigned signal our full and total lack of confidence and trust in the leadership of Secretary Vincent Schiraldi and make clear our demand: **We call on you as Maryland Governor to remove Secretary Schiraldi immediately.**

Sincerely,

Arch C McKown
Safety Chairperson, Patterson Park Neighborhood Association

Dan Kiselik
President, Butchers Hill Association
(signing as private resident)

Bobbi Jo Simms
President, Highlandtown Neighborhood Association

Giovanna Blatterman
President, The Original Little Italy
Neighborhood Organization

Lucia Islas
President, El Comite de Baltimore

Cesar Romero
President, Bayview Community Association

Joe Koehler
Safety Chairperson, Canton Community Association

Kate Simms
President, Fells Point Resident Association
(signing as private resident)

Brant Fisher
President, Brewers Hill Association

Wendy Bozel
Upper Fells (signing as a private resident)

Patrick Russell
Business Owner, Fells Point

Patrick Lunberg
Past President, PPNA

*Appendix: June 2024 Baltimore City Police Department Juvenile arrest statistics, post appointment of Secretary Schiraldi: overall arrests: 2022 = 278, 2024 = 348, assault and robbery: 2022: 18, 2024 = 93, stolen auto: 2022 = 49, 2024 = 92. Regarding the sharp increase in juvenile crime, States Attorney Ivan Bates has publicly stated multiple times in 2024 "Juvenile crime is out of control!" SAO juvenile crime statistics post-appointment of Secretary Schiraldi: 2022=191, 2024=590 for the January 1st to July 15th period, respectively.

Baltimore City Data CY 2021-2023	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Juvenile Complaints	560	1,010	1,226
Detention Requested	234	251	298
Detained Cases	137	176	163
Non Detained Cases	97	75	135
Pre-D Average Length of Stay	23.9	26.5	16.9

- ACTUAL DETAINMENT DECREASED FROM 2021 – 24% DETAINED VS 2023 – 13% DETAINED, ALONG WITH AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY DECREASING FROM 23.9 DAYS TO 16.9 DAYS.