



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Wes Moore

August 21, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Trump,

Last week, you responded to my concerns about the deployment of National Guard personnel for municipal policing in Washington, D.C. by insulting me personally from the Oval Office. So I wanted to write in order to clarify the root of my frustration and extend an invitation for you to visit Maryland, where we can discuss strategies for effective public safety policy.

There is no higher priority for me, as the governor of my state, than the safety of my people. This is an issue of both professional and personal significance. I grew up in and around communities left behind by people in power, who sought to weaponize the pain of their constituents through hollow talking points that never changed the reality on the ground.

From the day I became Maryland's chief executive, I've sought a different path. We have taken an all-of-the-above approach to public safety that addresses the root causes of crime: Mobilizing state resources; building strong partnerships with local jurisdictions, prosecutors, public defenders, police officers, and advocates; and ensuring greater coordination and data-sharing to deliver staggering drops in violent crime.

While we are not done delivering results for the people in our neighborhoods, I am deeply encouraged by our progress. Homicides in Maryland are down statewide by 20% since my inauguration two and a half years ago. In the first six months of 2025, the Baltimore Police Department continued to see double-digit reductions in gun violence, including a 22% decrease in homicides and a 19% decrease in non-fatal shootings from the year before. We are currently on track to have the lowest number of homicides in Baltimore City since we began officially keeping crime statistics.

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404

(410) 974-3400

TTY Users Call via MD Relay
governor.maryland.gov

Even in the face of millions of dollars in cuts to federal funding for violence intervention and gun violence prevention under your administration—including to programs directly credited with lowering rates of homicide and other violent crimes—our state and local communities continue to invest in proven strategies that help us build safer, more vibrant neighborhoods.

If there's anything Maryland has proven over the last two years, it's that we can achieve performance without being performative. Progress requires the right tool for the right mission. Asking the patriotic citizen soldiers of our National Guard to police our cities doesn't meet that test.

As part of our broad approach to public safety, I regularly join community advocates and elected officials to walk through the neighborhoods most affected by violent crime. Grassroots leaders must play an active role in decision-making, rather than being relegated to talking points deployed in backroom, partisan debates.

I would like to formally invite you to attend our next public safety walk in September, at a date of your choosing. We would be joined by the Baltimore City Mayor, the Baltimore State's Attorney, elected officials, local law enforcement, and community groups. In Maryland and in Baltimore, you will find people who share the same commitment to public safety that I have—and who want to be part of the solution, not the problem.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wes Moore
Governor