

**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

September 18, 2019

The Honorable Brian Frosh
Attorney General for the State of Maryland
200 St. Paul Place, 20th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Baltimore City crime investigations and prosecutions

Dear Attorney General Frosh:

Pursuant to Article V, § 3, of the Maryland Constitution, I hereby direct you to independently investigate and prosecute criminal suits alleging violations of State criminal laws that relate to any of the following offenses in which any element of the crime occurs within Baltimore City: crimes of violence; crimes related to firearms; and organized crime.

To help facilitate these actions, you should immediately begin working with the Governor's Council on Gangs and Violent Criminal Networks. The Council exists to share relevant violent crime information across jurisdictions, with the ultimate goal of providing necessary information to prosecutors for the development of violent crime charges. The multijurisdictional membership of the Council will enable you to assist State's Attorneys with violent crime cases that cross jurisdictional lines.

Far too often in Baltimore City, violent offenders get a slap on the wrist and are released back out onto the streets to commit yet another violent offense. This occurs both when prosecutors decide to *nolle prosequi* cases rather than presenting the case to a jury, and when prosecutors reach excessively lenient plea deals. To step up our efforts to prosecute dangerous offenders and stem the tide of violence, our administration provided the United States Attorney's Office with funding for federal prosecutors to bring firearms charges under Project EXILE. The approach set forth here involving your office is yet another tool we can utilize to address this public safety crisis.

By letter dated April 24, 2015, I authorized you to investigate and prosecute certain crimes. Pursuant to that authority, your Organized Crime Unit has charged nearly 200 defendants for crimes related to violence, gang participation, drug trafficking, firearms offenses, and more. While this delegation of authority is somewhat out of the ordinary, the violent crime crisis in Baltimore demands a comprehensive response.

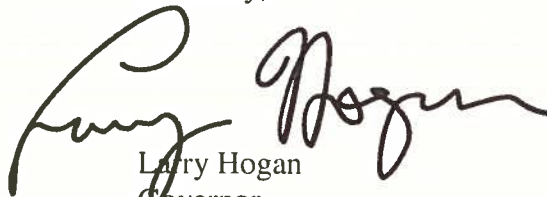
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For that reason, I am directing you to investigate and prosecute criminal cases resulting from the serving of certain warrants identified by the Maryland State Police and their law enforcement partners. The Maryland State Police and their law enforcement partners will be conducting a series of warrant initiatives targeting high priority warrants for violent offenders. Please coordinate with the Maryland State Police to be notified of warrants requiring potential additional investigation and prosecution. Removing these dangerous high-level offenders from the streets is vital to our fight against violent crime.

For these investigations, your office is authorized to use all necessary subpoena powers, to present to an appropriate grand jury any evidence and testimony considered necessary to carry out this authorization and directive, and to act with the full powers, rights and privileges possessed by a State's Attorney. If criminal conduct is uncovered by these probes, your office shall provide my office with at least 15 days' notice before you bring charges. Your office otherwise is authorized to bring charges in any court of this State against any and all persons and entities involved in or associated with the crimes.

Given the urgency of this matter, my office expects regular progress reports on these investigations, and the progress you are making in prosecuting violent offenders. I am confident that you and your office can help save lives and make a difference for the people of Baltimore City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Larry Hogan
Governor