



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB0652**

February 22, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 652 – Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Shootings  
Department of Juvenile Services Transparency Act of 2024

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 652.

SB 652 would foster accountability and transparency by requiring the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to provide an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly detailing the number of juveniles under supervision who were involved in fatal and non-fatal shootings – including both victims and shooters – along with the age and county of residence of each individual identified. This legislation would also require DJS to describe the process and actions that were conducted by the department after each shooting incident reported.

Juvenile non-fatal shooting victims have quadrupled statewide over the past decade; murder and attempted murder arrests for juveniles in Baltimore City have consistently increased over the past five years. Particularly in Baltimore City, homicides and shootings of youth have continued to rise.<sup>1</sup>

Given the alarming rise in gun violence by and against young people, it is sound policy for DJS to provide legislators annually with information on shooting incidents that have occurred involving juveniles under the Department's purview.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 652.

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<sup>1</sup>Maryland Department of Juvenile Services Research Brief, "Putting Youth Crime in Maryland in Context," September 2023. [https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/MD-DJS-Juvenile-Crime-Data-Brief\\_20230912.pdf](https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/MD-DJS-Juvenile-Crime-Data-Brief_20230912.pdf)