



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wes Moore

DIRECTIVE

TO: Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino, Department of Juvenile Services

CC: Lester Davis, Chief of Staff
Manny Welsh, Principal Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer
Travis Nelson, Deputy Chief of Staff

FROM: Governor Wes Moore

RE: Directive – Safe Summer Strategy

DATE: May 27, 2026

Public safety continues to be my top priority — and the progress our administration has made reflects what is possible when government works with urgency and purpose. Since taking office, homicides in Maryland have declined by 44% and non-fatal shootings have declined by 40%. This year alone, homicides are down more than 25% statewide compared to last year, reaching their lowest rate in nearly 40 years. Juvenile homicide victims have decreased by nearly 25% in the past year. These results are not by accident. They are the product of our all-of-the-above approach to public safety.

During our Public Safety Performance Cabinet meeting last week, I was pleased to hear how several strategies — including Safer Stronger Together and THRIVE — are helping communities grow by intervening the cycle of violence at the root. For instance, in the past 12 months, nine out of ten Thrive Academy participants have not experienced a gun related rearrest. That is not an accident. It is the result of our all-of-the-above approach to making communities safer. But there is still more work to do.

Summer is a critical time for our young people. I want to ensure that this Safe Summer Strategy reflects proper coordination amongst our public safety agencies, closes any remaining gaps in

summer programming across the state, and advances the three public safety goals of accountability, violence prevention, and direct intervention. Agencies should leverage all available resources to more rapidly identify, prevent and respond to incidents involving youth in our state.

Accordingly, in light of these considerations as the 2025-2026 school year comes to a close, and pursuant to my authority as the head of the executive branch of State government under Article II, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution, as well as Section 3-302 of the State Government Article of the Maryland Code, I hereby direct the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to coordinate with the Maryland State Police (MSP), the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the Governor's Office for Children (GOC), and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) on a collective Safe Summer Strategy for our juvenile and emerging adult populations.

The strategy should address the following priorities:

- Prioritizing prevention and intervention programs for high risk young people and their families, including Safer Stronger Together, ENOUGH, PROTECT, and Thrive Academy.
- Expanding education and workforce development programming for young people to create pathways to opportunity and support long-term success
- Implementing targeted intervention measures for repeat juvenile offenders that are proportionate, timely, and effective.
- Redirecting emerging adults who are not under DJS jurisdiction (16-21 year olds) toward support programming and resources.
- Developing collaborative solutions to address ongoing community concerns like illegal street car rallies and 'teen takeovers,' and other criminal activity.
- Continuing to build on the foundation of DJS's Police Liaison Program by expanding integration and cooperative partnerships across Maryland public safety agencies — including embedding DJS staff within key partner agencies and coordinating proactive deployment strategies for major events such as the Fourth of July.
- Supporting successful programs and best practices at the county and municipal level, and identify opportunities to scale what is working.
- Identifying opportunities for legislative or policy fixes to address gaps in the law that limit our ability to intervene effectively.

The Governor's Office and your fellow agencies stand ready to provide whatever support DJS needs to move quickly and ensure that it continues providing world-class service to the children

of Maryland and their families. An initial status report is due at the Public Safety Performance Cabinet in June.

This Directive is effective as of the date indicated above, and shall remain in force until further notice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Wes Moore
Governor of the State of Maryland