

2021

BALTIMORE CITY MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT STATE PRIORITIES



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



BUILDING PUBLIC SAFETY

We aim to **secure Funding and Additional Support for City programs intended to help reduce violence** and address the underlying factors that lead to it before it starts. We also seek to ensure that City officials have the **local control to oversee BPD Operations** in a manner that is best for the City. Additionally, these programs include the Group Violence Reduction Strategy, Baltimore City's Visitation Center, community-based pre-arrest diversion, and Safe Streets.

Under the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD), the consent decree remains at the forefront of police reform in the State and while some progress has been made, our police department has a long road ahead toward building and rebuilding trust between law enforcement and our communities. Baltimore City stands as a partner in **support of Statewide efforts for police reform**, but we urge care to ensure that such reform does not disrupt BPD's ability to continue to fully and effectively implement the consent decree or allow for problematic provisions sought to be removed from State law to be simply replicated under local collective bargaining agreements.



MAKING BALTIMORE EQUITABLE

City residents must have equitable opportunities and access to transportation, healthcare, and resources so that they are set for success and able to not just survive, but thrive. As many of our residents do not have cars, mass transit is essential. Passage of **The Maryland Transit Safety and Investment Act** would ensure increased operational and capital support for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to help service and ensure transportation funding in the Baltimore Metro region.

While the pandemic has put public health on the forefront, longstanding disparities in resources have left many communities in Baltimore and around the State without equitable access to the healthcare they deserve. **The Maryland Health Equity Resource Act** will ensure that State resources are properly targeted to address these disparities and improve healthcare services and outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exploited the inequity of broadband internet access and widened the digital divide across our City. Reliable internet access is critical for education, telehealth, and remote working. We must close the **Digital Divide** that has been holding back our students and residents and ensure there is a coordinated local-state approach to expanding digital inclusion in the City.



PRIORITIZING OUR YOUTH

Our students deserve world class education in 21st century facilities. We will continue to work to ensure that the City does its part to see through the override of the Governor's misguided veto of the **Blueprint for Maryland's future**. Our students also deserve places they can expand their knowledge and receive helpful services. To that end, extending State funding for the **Enoch Pratt Free Library** will allow the library to continue to operate under expanded hours of operations, particularly in the branches located in historically disinvested in communities. For the recreation needs of our youth, we will **advocate for Rec and Parks funding** to renovate key structures that would ensure they are adequately equipped to meet the needs of our youth. Additionally, our secondary education students deserve adequate and equitable funding and resources. We must ensure that the State's disparate investment in **Maryland's four historically black colleges and universities** is addressed.



ECONOMIC AND PANDEMIC SUPPORT

The City has been fortunate to receive critical State support to meet its community development needs. Ensuring that support from the **Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund** and related programs does not expire will go far towards allowing the City to enhance strategic investment, remove blight, and revitalize neighborhoods.

Finally, I stand ready to work with the legislature and Biden Administration in support of legislation that aids Baltimore and Maryland families who have felt the impact of the pandemic and seeks to uplift and help our **small businesses, restaurants, tourism, and arts & entertainment industries recover**.