



**Community Relations Commission
Monthly Meeting/Hybrid
Public Session Minutes
HS/HSL Library at 601 W. Lombard St
Baltimore, MD 21201, Conference Room 321
January 21, 2026**

- I. Participating in the virtual conference were Commissioners Todd Yeary, Nadine Finigan-Carr (Chair), Reynaldo Evangelista, Amahl Foster, Gloria Andela, Stephen Ruckman, Matthew Menter, Chanel Green. Absent: Yvette Ilechie. Also, present were staff: Aracely Stafford (Interim Deputy Director), Danielle Burton (Division Chief), Andrea Pineda (Investigator), Zelma Ortiz (Investigator), Tiffany Jones (Investigator), Emma Kaufman (Investigator). Guest: Rick Fontaine Leandry

- II. Welcome/Call to Order
 - A. The meeting was called to order at 1:12 pm by Chair Finigan-Carr.
 - B. Open remarks.
 1. Chair Finigan-Carr spoke about the reasons for having an in-person meeting.
 2. Chair Finigan-Carr noted that the working session in July will most likely be in-person to plan for the upcoming year.

- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Motion to approve November 11, 2026, minutes was made by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Evangelista. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Director's Report
 - A. Deputy Stafford gave the Director's report.
 - B. Baltimore City Law Department in partnership with the City's Office of Equity and Civil Rights to open an investigation into possible violations of the Fair Housing Act by investors behind a recent fraudulent mortgage scheme leading to a number of foreclosures in Baltimore City.
 - C. The Law Department is prepared to brief the Commission on the latest updates and where the city stands with this Fair Housing concern.
 - D. CRC Staff attended the Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Group mtg on January 6, 2026, regarding Fair Housing Testing.

Commented [DB1]: @Greene, Amber (Mayor's Office)
How should this be updated. Do we have additional information.

Commented [GO2R1]: For this the next steps were for the law dept to brief the commission. If that occurred we should write that?



- E. 2026 General Assembly- Housing bills: MD DHCD starter homes bill, vesting bill, and MACo BAMBY bill
 - F. Board Vacancies
 - 1. The Mayor's Office of Government Relations (MOGR) has sworn in two new members, four reappointments and three additional members to be sworn in at a later date.
 - G. Data
 - H. Staff has closed seven complaints thus far for FY26, with 2 being merit resolutions. 1) \$12,500 Sexual Harassment, 2) \$25,000 race-related complaint. A total of 13 complaints has been resolved towards the EEOC contract of 35 complaints
 - 1. Next Meeting Date
 - i. Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Meeting with Fire Chief Wallace.
- IV. Presentation – MONSE *attached from Emma Kaufmann (CRC Investigator)*
- a. Presentation from Mr. Leandry regarding MONSE's program, Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS):
 - b. Broken window theory on environmental issues: broken windows, litter, more crime, more shootings and homicides are likely to take place. Usually a vacant home in the area with squatters, people looking for drugs, etc.
 - c. Coordinate with city agencies and other community-based organizations to do trauma healing, stabilize areas after mass shootings, prevent retaliatory violence.
 - d. Will also work with BPD to increase police presence.
 - e. "Behind the Wall" - MONSE meets with folks 6 months out from release to help prepare them for release.
- V. Commissioners' Report
- A. No report.
 - B. MONSE questions attached.
- V. Open Forum
- A. Next Meeting: February 18, 2026, Informational Session at City Hall.
- VI. Closing
- There was no further business to discuss.
- Chair Finigan-Carr closed the meeting at approximately 2:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Drummond
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

Attachment from Emma Kaufmann (CRC Investigator)

Questions for MONSE:

1. How many teams are there?
 1. We have 40 employees. Community Engagement and Opportunity houses Coordinated Stabilizations, Reentry, Neighborhood Policing Plan, Youth Diversion. Then we have GVRS, Victim Services, Community Violence Interruption (houses SafeStreets), and Data. When a violent event occurs, there's an internal coordination meeting to determine how to best serve the victims, work with the police, etc.
2. How does MONSE work with other city agencies?
 1. Usually MONSE is first on the scene if there's a violent event, like a school shooting. BPD has their own victim services team. State's Attorney's Office also has their own victim services team. BPD gets priority.
 2. For any incident dealing with children, we work with Department of Juvenile Services, City Schools, etc.
 1. We do proactive stabilization services too. We study 311, 211, and 911 calls to determine what proactive work we can do. We study the call data. If GVRS knows of a group where violence might break out, they try to get to the group first.
 2. We have a good relationship with BPD, as well as grassroots organizations, Black Arts District, Uncle T, We are US. We work with everyone, coordinate with city agencies to resolve issues.
3. What is the Peace Mobile?
 1. It's a tour bus, we take it around the city, it has a recording studio, it has coloring books, but it also helps young people with filling out job applications in exchange for studio time.
4. How many of your staff speaks Spanish?
 1. We coordinate and partner with MIMA. We have one staff member who speaks Spanish. For situations that require mediation, we reach out to partner agencies. We have MIMA on speed dial. But we could do more - I will bring it back to my time.
5. What preventative measures do you implement around domestic violence?
 1. We have an intimate partner violence court liaison who monitors cases. MONSE also does work at local colleges and universities to raise awareness around IPV as a preventative measure.
6. What do you do to lower rates of violence in areas known for substance use issues and violence?

**COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
COMMISSION**
OF BALTIMORE CITY



OFFICE OF
**EQUITY AND
CIVIL RIGHTS**

AMBER GREENE
Director

DANIELLE BURTON
Chief, Community Relations Commission

1. It's not a quick and easy fix. We are trying to create programs that focus on specific areas - we have a Task Force that works on these more notorious areas and make it less of a revolving door.