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For Immediate Release

It has been about two years since the current Police Commissioner arrived in Baltimore, and yet our torrid pace of violent crime has continued unabated. Over 300 people have been killed in each of those years, even though this year we were subjected to a Stay-at-Home Order that had our streets empty for 4 months (fewer potential victims on the street)! We have been told that the current crime plan is a 5-year strategy which, based on the current crime rate and continued lack of success, equates to the potential for approximately 1,000 Baltimoreans to perish at the hands of predators before we switch to another community policing model from yet another progressive law enforcement leader. At that point, the new leader will announce their own crime plan and ask for time for its implementation. That's right, Baltimore, just what we need - more time! People often tell me that sometimes it seems as though the actual crime plan is to let all of the criminals wipe each other out, and then, coupled with the population loss caused by the continued violence, the crime rate will reduce through attrition. This is not probable, but it is the sentiment of some who feel that the focus seems to be on the Consent Decree and the budget rather than on any real crime strategy to address the worst that prey on our good citizens and those that come here to work and play. Without public safety, there can never be a prosperous Baltimore!

In the meantime, however, our brave BPD Officers courageously patrol the most violent streets in America, although our manpower has been allowed to drop by 500 Officers: making proactive policing in Baltimore just a pipe dream. Years ago, when the BPD was successful in pushing homicides below 200, we had 400 discretionary officers that could be deployed quickly to stop and prevent violence and sustain that presence.

Until the "leaders" of this city wake up and make the Baltimore Police Department an attractive, career-oriented place to be a Police Officer, we will never fill the ranks. During the last two years, we have lost more Police Officers than we have hired. **Working conditions and pay have to improve** in order to recruit and retain the most qualified candidates to Baltimore rather than losing them to one of the 5 other large jurisdictions in Maryland that are already more attractive than the Baltimore Police Department.

Mike Mancuso