

Juvenile Justice Reform Council
Juveniles Charged as Adults

I write in opposition to any changes to Maryland's law on the jurisdiction of juveniles who commit violent crimes.

Any effort to eliminate the well thought out statutory scheme in which the Legislature determined that certain violent crimes committed by juveniles are so dangerous that these juveniles should start in adult court would change settled law that is vital to public safety. Some form of this statute, Courts Article 3-8A-03, has existed since the 1970's and additional violent crimes have been added to it over the years, most recently carjacking. Most juveniles who come under the jurisdiction of the adult court under this statute may still seek a reverse waiver to the Juvenile Court.

The best way to understand the effect this change would have on each of us is to read about those that would be treated as juveniles if you change the law and what they did. After reading the facts of each case ask yourself, does this person belong in a juvenile facility and juvenile court?

Baltimore County – Nick Browning

On February 2, 2008 Nick Browning snuck into his home, put a gun to the back of his father's head and executed him while he slept on the couch. He then went upstairs where he proceeded to execute his mother, brother Gregory age 14, and brother Benjamin age 11.

At the time he committed these murders he was 15 years old. He was also 6'2", 200 pounds, with an I.Q. of 125.

Before he left the home after the murders, he staged the scene to look like a burglary. He opened his mother's jewelry cabinet and scattered its contents across the floor. He disconnected the Xbox and Wii video games and placed them on a pool table.

Browning then returned to a friend's home where he was at a sleepover. The next day he played video games and went to the mall with his friends while calling his parent's home leaving messages expressing his love for the family.

He confessed to the murders. He admitted that he had a long standing plan to kill his family. He murdered them all because he wanted his family's money.

Should he be treated as a juvenile? Do we think that this cold blooded killer should reside at the Hickey School for a year or two before his waiver hearing?

This killer who is the size of a man, with high intellect is one of the most manipulative, conniving, dangerous people I have come across in recent years. Do we want this Defendant in a juvenile facility for two years?

He pled guilty to four murders. Received two life sentences. He is serving his sentence in North Branch, Maryland, one of the most secure correctional facilities we have in the State.

He did not deserve to be treated as a juvenile for the State to hope waive him up to adult court. He would be too dangerous.

Now let me tell you about some others.

Baltimore County – Dawnta Harris

All four of the Defendant's charged in the death of Officer Amy Caprio were juveniles. The four juveniles stole a car and were in the Perry Hall area of Baltimore County breaking into houses. Their method was for three to break into homes and one

to man the getaway car. The one who was in the driver's seat was Dawnta Harris when he was confronted by Officer Amy Caprio. Do those Defendant's really deserve to start their cases in the Juvenile Court? The Circuit Court denied the juveniles who requested a waiver back to Juvenile Court. The driver, Dawnta Harris, who killed Officer Caprio was 16 years old when he committed his crime. He ran over Officer Caprio in cold blood. Officer Caprio confronted Harris when he was behind the wheel. He pretended to open the car door but then gunned the car running over her. He was convicted of Felony Murder and received a Life Sentence. Harris had a juvenile record of stealing cars. While awaiting trial in jail, he was cited for graffiti, pornography, and cussing at guards. His co-defendants were breaking into houses and each were convicted of Felony Murder and received 30 years in prison.

Baltimore County – Felix Fitzgerald

In 1999 Fitzgerald was an inmate at the Charles Hickey School and the victim was the school nurse. Keep in mind this crime happened in the place of the the Defendant's will be housed if you change the law. Obviously since Fitzgerald was at the Hickey School he was still a juvenile. For some reason, the nurse's station was in the building with either the cafeteria or gym and was virtually deserted when those facilities were not being used. On the date of the incident, the Defendant jumped over the dutch door into the nurse's station that was a room not much bigger than a closet. He was wearing a t-shirt over his face. He grabbed the nurse from behind, strangled her and anally raped her. No one could hear her pleas for help. Although the victim was a nurse, she was so traumatized by this incident that she could no longer work in that capacity and eventually moved out of State. The Defendant received a 40 year

sentence for First Degree Sex Offense. Do we want him to start in a juvenile facility? That is in fact where he committed his crime. Where do you hold him while waiting for his waiver hearing, back at Hickey to reoffend?

Baltimore County – Lewin Powell

Lewin Powell killed his mother with a baseball bat and almost did the same to his father. He was 16 when he attacked them.

The Defendant told police that the day before the murder his mother had received a call from his teacher at McDonogh where he went to school, who stated that her son's grades were slipping. His mother confronted the Defendant with this and a verbal argument ensued. During the course of the verbal argument the Defendant began to strike the Victim with his fists. The Victim was able to get the Defendant to stop assaulting her. The Victim then attempted to run to the door. The Defendant caught her, threw her on the ground and continued to punch her in the face until she was "dazed." It was at this time that the Defendant decided to kill his mother. He picked his mother up and carried her into another room. He then went to his room to retrieve his baseball bat. When he returned his mother was attempting to open the door. At that time he hit her several times in the head with the baseball bat. As he continued to beat her with the bat she crawled into the kitchen. The Defendant followed her into the kitchen and continued to beat her until he believed she was dead. The Defendant then placed her head in a trash bag and drug her into the garage where her body was later found.

The Defendant then locked the door to his parent's bedroom knowing that if his father came home and the bedroom door was locked his father would sleep on the

couch. The Defendant slept with the baseball bat in his room that night and awoke at 6 a.m. to find his father. The Defendant had already decided to kill his father as well. The Defendant found his father asleep on the couch and began beating him in the head with the bat. His father fought back. His father was eventually able to convince the Defendant to stop assaulting him by agreeing to help the Defendant escape authorities. The Defendant indicated that after his father helped him he still intended on killing him. His mother's co-workers contacted the police and came to the house because the victim did not show up for work. The police met the co-workers at the house. When Officer's arrived at the scene they observed the Defendant's father at the location bleeding from the head. He told the officer's that his son had killed his wife. The body of Donna Rosemary Campbell-Powell was found in the garage covered with blankets and other debris. She suffered multiple blunt force trauma wounds to her entire body. Blood stains were located throughout the residence.

He pled guilty to First Degree Murder and received Life. Does he belong in the juvenile system? Should he reside at Hickey for a year awaiting a waiver hearing?

Baltimore County - Benjamin Garris

Benjamin Garris currently 35, convicted of First Degree Murder committed at the age of 16.

On October 8, 1995 the Baltimore County Police Department were called to the Sheppard Pratt Hospital for a suspicious condition. At a small cottage on the hospital property they found a small fire that had been ignited with a liquid accelerant. Throughout the cottage they found liquid chemicals that led to a propane tank on the second floor whose valve had been opened with gas leaking out.

Found in the cottage was the body of Sharon Edwards, age 28, and the mother of 7 year old, who was working her first overnight shift. Ms. Edwards was a care provider at the cottage which provided residency to five male juveniles. Ms. Edwards was slashed and stabbed 26 times by Garris.

At the time of this incident it was home to three juvenile males. When the police arrived two of the juveniles were present and Benjamin Garris had fled. Found in Garris' room was documentation about setting fires and documents on how to kill people. Thankfully the fire had not consumed the building which would have taken two more lives.

Garris confessed to the murder telling police that when Ms. Edwards pled for her life he responded "You're dead. That's right and now you're nothing but a piece of meat."

During the murder he mimicked the ultra-violent actions from his favorite movie *A Clockwork Orange*.

Baltimore County - Andre Lawson

Andre Lawson currently 31, was convicted of First Degree Murder at the age of 17. On December 24, 2000 police were called to a Burger King where a large amount of blood, coins and a cash register were found in the office area. They found the body of James Stambaugh, age 21, outside near the trash dumpsters dead. Mr. Stambaugh was the night manager of the Burger King. He had been bound with duct tape, stabbed and beaten repeatedly during an after-hours robbery that Lawson committed with three others. He was beaten so badly that the duct tape that was put on his face was found in autopsy in his brain. Lawson was caught days after the murder. Found in his room

were his clothes covered in the victim's blood. During a pre-sentencing interview he told the Agent he is "cold with no regard for others." One of the co-defendants worked at the location and let the other three in to assist in the robbery and murder.

Missing from the location was Mr. Stambaugh's car and \$2,800 in cash from the Burger King. Lawson was convicted and received Life Without Parole.

Baltimore County - Aaron Holly

Aaron Holly is currently 30. Convicted of First Degree Murder at the age of 17. On June 27, 2002 officers responded to a call of shots fired. At the scene they found the victim, Tanya Jones, age 30 and the mother of two young children, laying on the ground under a second floor balcony. She had been shot two times.

Witnesses revealed that Ms. Jones had just arrived home from work and could be heard on her third floor balcony yelling "No, No." Ms. Jones jumped 20 feet to the ground and was crawling away from the location when Aaron Holly and a co-defendant walked over and shot her point blank in the head.

Holly and his co-defendant began their crime as a chance to rob and kill Ms. Jones' husband. They were caught a short distance from the murder shortly after the crime.

He is serving a sentence of Life without Parole.

Baltimore County – Ty'aris Washington

Ty'aris Washington, 16, and his 14 year old co-defendant in 2016 when the crimes were committed. On November 16, five males walked towards three victims, including a 6 year old. One male who had a black bandana covering the lower part of his face, had a handgun in his hand and stated, "Give me your shit." One of the males

pushed a victim to the ground and took her phone. Another male slapped another victim in the face with an open hand multiple times and grabbed her purse off her body, she resisted, but the assailant continued to take the purse, breaking one of her fingers in the process. Yet another male took the purse of the third victim. They then got back in the car and fled.

Approximately 15 minutes later a witness observed 3 or 4 male subjects throwing a car seat and other items out of a vehicle. The items were later determined to belong to one of the victims. The witness stopped and asked what they were doing and the defendant ran on foot to the parking lot of a 7-11 across the street where he observed them drop purses. Those purses were later identified as belonging to two of the victims.

Approximately 30 minutes later officers were dispatched for a hit and run involving a silver Town and Chrysler with extensive damage matching the description of the vehicle involved in the robbery. Investigation would reveal a tampered ignition and that the vehicle was reported stolen two days earlier in Baltimore City. A witness heard the crash and looked outside, observing suspicious subjects and called 911 telling them the suspects were headed north. While following their path of flight a red leather wallet and a BOA check were found belonging to the victims.

Within a minute of the hit and run, officers were dispatched to an armed carjacking just up the street. Another victim advised he was approaching his VW Jetta when he observed a group of approximately five males walking down the street. He was about to unlock his car when he was surrounded by the males. One of the individuals pulled a gun out and pointed it at the victim's head demanding his keys, cell phone and wallet. After handing over his keys and cell phone the victim grabbed the

gun and pushed it over his head and then the two began to struggle. During the struggle another individual put a sharp pointed object in his ribs. The suspects then fled the area stopping briefly to dump the contents of the victim's vehicle on the side of the road. Ty'aris Washington was one of the Defendant's. He does not belong in juvenile court for his participation in this crime spree.

Baltimore County – Jelevon Nolley, Wayne Parker, and Kyron Williams

Jelevon Nolley, 16, Wayne Parker, 17, and Kyron Williams, 16, were charged as adults for a string of armed robberies that occurred on January 29, 2017 between 02:53 and 06:23. According to police, Nolley and Williams did the robberies while Parker was the get-away driver. In each case they wore the same masks and clothing as well as the same vehicle description. Police noticed a trend and setup surveillance. After the last robbery they located the suspect vehicle and chased it. Ultimately, all defendants fled the vehicle and were apprehended. Police recovered from the vehicle a handgun that turned out to be an airsoft pistol as well as a rifle. These Defendants who do not belong in the juvenile system.

Jelevon Nolley received a 20 year sentence with all but 4 suspended on two Armed Robbery Convictions. Wayne Parker received a 5 year sentence, and Kyron Williams received a 5 year sentence.

Baltimore County – Blake Holt

Blake Holt, was 16, in 2016. Police were dispatched for a first degree assault, the victim was upset and had visible injuries, a cut on her nose, a bruise on forehead and a large knot on the side of her face. The victim advised that the incident began at 0600. She was taking a friend to work when the defendant, a friend of her son, was

outside and told her he needed to talk to her son. The victim told the Defendant to go inside. When the victim returned the Defendant was in her living room and he left shortly thereafter. The victim found her purse on the living room floor and it appeared to have been ransacked but nothing was missing. Shortly after the Defendant left, the victim heard a loud crash and observed that someone had thrown a rock through her kitchen window. The victim called police. While waiting for police the Defendant returned to her house.

Defendant told the victim that he left his phone in the basement. She asked the defendant if he saw anyone running from the location where her window was broken and he responded no. The Defendant went into the basement and then came back upstairs. Defendant was standing behind the victim. The Defendant then suddenly placed a plastic bag over the victim's head and tried to strangle her. The victim thought he was trying to kill her. She was dizzy and ripped the bag. She fell to the floor and the Defendant still attempted to suffocate her with her hands. She survived. The Defendant was convicted of First Degree Assault

Baltimore County – LaTray Hughes

LaTray Hughes, age 16, was convicted in December of 2015 for a 2014 murder in the Dundalk area of Baltimore County. Hughes was with three other adults who had broken into the victim's home in search of stolen clothing. Hughes encountered the victim in an upstairs bedroom. The victim was watching television and eating Burger King in bed. Hughes shot the victim multiple times, including a contact wound to the right side of his face, as well as shots to the back, leg, hand and torso before he fled the house. Within two hours of the shooting the above group of defendant's including

Hughes' girlfriend were eating breakfast at Denny's restaurant. He was convicted of First Degree Murder and Received a Life Sentence.

Baltimore County – Destiny Fields

When she was 15 years old, she and a younger juvenile named Joy Jones, planned to attack a group home worker. They beat her with a fire extinguisher, dragged her down the basement stairs, barricaded the door with chairs and other furniture so she couldn't escape, then stole her car keys and took the victim's car for a joyride. This Defendant crashed the car then called her Dad bragging about it. Originally sentenced to 20 years suspend all but 5 years on Robbery with a Deadly Weapon, 10 years consecutive all suspended, on False Imprisonment. She had several Violation of Probation's and it was successfully argued for all the back-up time at her last Violation of Probation hearing. The Defendant was also convicted in Baltimore City of driving a stolen car with a handgun under the seat.

Baltimore County – Desean Turner

In January 2019, Desean Turner was 17 years old when he robbed another male of his marijuana with another Defendant. The robbery was essentially finished and Turner got back out of the car and executed the victim/dealer. The victim was kneeling on the ground with his hands up. He was convicted of First Degree Murder and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

Baltimore County – Ali Cornish and Jeremiah Hosear

Cornish and Hosear were both 17 years old at the time of the offense. On April 24, 2019 at 1:25AM, the co-defendants were breaking into a Mercedes parked in front

of a 24 hour Planet Fitness. They were trying to steal the Mercedes, but the Mercedes was broken down so it wouldn't move.

The two victims in the case were regular people with no criminal history. They go to the gym late at night because they work at a bar and go to the gym after work. After their workout, the two victims were walking from the gym to their cars when the two Defendants came at them and started beating on them, demanding their keys and their wallets. One of the Defendants had a metal Maglite flashlight and was beating the victims with that. One of the victims was able to get away and ran into the gym for help. The other victim continued to be assaulted by both Defendants (one of whom was 6'2") until a bystander drove by and scared the Defendants off by flashing the car's high beams.

The Defendants fled but were caught by police that night. One of the Defendants - the 6'2" Defendant who wielded the metal Maglite – in a post-Miranda statement, expressed no remorse:

“Yeah he fought – I'm not even gonna (inaudible) you, he fought back. So if he fights back, he gets beat. He gets (inaudible). So he fought back, got spent a little bit more. And I'm like, alright dummy, come on. And we left.”

The victims suffered multiple contusions, and one of them had to get staples in his head from the injuries. They were both really messed up emotionally afterwards.

Both Defendants had prior contacts with the Juvenile Justice System. Defendant Cornish was pending a Robbery in Juvenile Court in Baltimore City at the time of the attack and reverse waiver hearing. Both Defendants remained in adult court and have

since pled guilty to Attempted Armed Robbery. Hosear received a 3 year sentence and Cornish received 18 months to serve.

Baltimore County – Devon Bynum

Age at the time of crime: 16. Crime spree on the morning of November 14, 2019. The spree started in Baltimore City where this Defendant (and the two co-defendants) face charges for a Double Homicide, and other Armed Carjackings/First Degree Assaults. One of the Carjacked vehicles from the city was brought into the County. They then committed an Armed Carjacking, Attempted Armed Carjacking and Armed Robbery between 5:15 a.m. and 5:40 a.m. On all three occasions victims described multiple suspects, and a handgun. Eventually the police did track the cars involved, and recovered a black 9mm handgun.

Baltimore County – Caron Davis

Age at the time of Crime: 17. Victim is a 64 year old woman. On June 14, 2020, she was unloading items outside the house she owns (she is a landlord and normally rents the property out). Two people with hoods up and masks on, pointed a black handgun at her head. Took the keys and she reports being so fearful of losing her life that all she could do was scream. They ran away. Found the defendants close by and recovered the firearm in his waistband. The gun was a black Springfield XD 40 with a round in the chamber. It was reported stolen from Virginia from 3/15/2018.

Baltimore County – William Cunningham

Age at the time of Crime: 16. Crime spree from April 26, 2018 of Armed Robberies and Armed Carjacking's at knife point. Victims included a 61 year old teacher eating lunch in her car. An 85 year old woman walking with her 58 year old son. His

juvenile record included several adjudications for Armed Robbery, all from Baltimore City. After the contested transfer hearing, the Defendant filed a plea of not competent. Since that time, he has been evaluated by several State doctors, and defense doctors. He claims to have a traumatic brain injury. Reports indicate that he is over exaggerating the injury and that he is malingering. During his time at Spring Grove, he has been abusive and disruptive to the point where they have written the judge on several occasions.

Baltimore County – Makiyal Shamar Hendricks

Age at the time of crime: 17. Facts: On September 23, 2018 at 115 a.m., Armed Carjacking at gun point. Threatened to shoot the victim. Defendant was on GPS ankle monitoring through DJS at the time of the crime. On October 4, 2018, Victim was carjacked at gunpoint outside of his home while his vehicle was parked in his driveway.

While this case was pending, the Defendant was also pending First Degree Murder charges from 10-4-2018 in Baltimore City. He utilized the vehicle that was taken in the County and committed a murder in the city. He was ultimately convicted. Prior to that, he had 9 complaints through Department of Juvenile Services. He had previously completed the program at Backbone Mountain Youth Center. A 5 month program, and was released on September 5, 2018.

Anne Arundel County - Anthony Switzer

16 year old Switzer was with a couple of friends when they had stolen a shotgun during a burglary. He told his friends that he “wanted to see what it was like to catch a body” so he fired at the first car that drove by him. The driver was an 18 year old. The driver slumped over after being fatally shot, and his car continued for a short distance,

so Switzer thought he wasn't dead. Unsatisfied, he decided to try and kill another person.

Nearby, he found a mother in the process of loading her two toddlers into her car after they'd just spent the day at grandma's house. He shot at the mother, but luckily, missed her and she wasn't killed in front of her children. He received a Life Sentence, suspend all but 40 years for First Degree Murder and First Degree Attempted Murder.

Anne Arundel County – Terry Cooks

Cooks was a friend of Switzer's (above). Switzer provided the police information which led to them charging an unsolved murder of a male nurse who was shot multiple times at close range in the face and abdomen while he jogged in a park near his home. The victim suffered through multiple surgeries for months before dying from his injuries. Cooks admitted to police that he had gone to the park that day to kill someone and he didn't care who. He was originally sentenced to Life without Parole. The Judge modified it to a Life sentence based upon new case law.

Anne Arundel County – David Raszewski

Raszewski lured a 7 year old girl from the playground and kidnapped her. He raped her in his apartment while her brother and babysitter searched frantically for her. Raszewski gave the child \$3 and told her not to tell anyone and later released her. Fortunately, the child was able to lead police to the assailant's apartment. He received a sentence of Life suspend all but 50 years.

Anne Arundel County – Vincent Bunner

Bunner, was 17, in 2012, when he was part of a group of teens robbing area stores. He shot and killed a man working at a pizza shop. The victim was 21 years old. He then was part of a group that killed another man at a 7/11. Both shootings were for no reason following a robbery. Bunner would later kill John O'Sullivan in 2016 by stabbing him multiple times in prison- while serving a Life Sentence for the first two cases. Bunner has killed or been involved in killing three people.

Caroline County – William Willis

On November 24, 2014 at approximately 6:30PM, Amanda Farrow called Caroline County 911 stating that her husband, Travon Farrow, had been shot. During that call to 911, Ms. Farrow stated that "someone came in the house and tried to rob them." She stated that there were "two of them" and they "had masks on and everything."

The apartment where the victim lived with his pregnant wife and two step children was long and narrow, with the main entrance closest to the street which led to the living room. A hallway connected the bedrooms, and the kitchen and bathroom were located at the back of the apartment. Police arrived and found the victim in the bathroom, near where his wife had been at the time of the robbery. Both step children were in a bedroom behind a closed door. Neither the wife nor step children were able to see the living room from their vantage point. The victim had answered the front door and then walked backwards to the rear of the apartment where he was found.

Within minutes, emergency personnel responded and Travon Farrow was transported to Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. Travon Farrow died a short time later. The cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the chest. He was 23 years old.

Amanda Farrow spoke with the police detectives that night and told them that she saw at least two individuals force their way into the house and demand money “and stuff” from her husband. She stated that one of the individuals was wearing a “scream” type mask and that individual was the one with the gun. She further stated that she was 80% sure that she recognized that person’s voice as “Nut” (aka Dayrius Garcia), as he had been a visitor to the apartment on one or two prior occasions and she had engaged in a conversation with him. A “scream” mask was found on the ground outside of Travon’s house. The mask was collected as evidence.

Amanda Farrow also initially told police that the second person favored William Willis in size and height, and that she initially thought it might have been him, but then she recalled the fact that Willis approached her on the street a few minutes after the victim was transported from the scene to ask her what happened, which she felt at the time was inconsistent with his guilt.

Amanda Farrow also stated that Willis was one of the few people that knew her husband kept marijuana in a hidden console in the living room, and that the console had been ransacked by someone in the course of the robbery. Amanda Farrow would identify the Defendant seated next to counsel as William Willis, who had previously been an upstairs neighbor, was a regular, visitor to the Farrow household both before and after the homicide, and was considered a family friend.

An investigation in the murder immediately began and within a short period of time the police began to focus on five individuals: Daryius Garcia, Elijah Rosetta, Christopher Eley, Markeith Jones, and William Willis.

During the first interview, Willis did acknowledge that he knew Travon Farrow and that he had purchased marijuana from him that morning but very casually denied any involvement or knowledge of the robbery or shooting. Willis then voluntarily agreed to provide a DNA sample. The four other suspects provided DNA samples as well.

While in detention awaiting trial, Willis wrote several letters to friends and family members that were lawfully obtained by police. He expressed that he “made a mistake going with those boys and that he thought the gun was only going to be used “to scare Travon” and that he only did it “for the money.” The sawed off 12 gauge has never been recovered.

Dorchester County - Otha Wongus and Diontre Stanton

Otha Wongus and Diontre Stanton were convicted of First Degree Murder at the age of 17.

Wongus and Stanton and two others encountered Yvonne Fountain, a 33 year old mother who was employed as a waitress and had an unfortunate interest in crack cocaine. She encountered the four defendants while looking to acquire crack. The four, including Wongus and Stanton, forced her down an alley and proceeded to rape her repeatedly. At the conclusion of the rapes, the group decided that they had to kill her so she couldn't report the crime. She was strangled by a co-defendant until she passed out. Having no weapons with them, they began beating her and stomping her with the boots they were wearing. When she regained consciousness, Wongus attempted to

finish her off by breaking her neck, twisting her head back and forth until a breaking sound was heard. She was still alive so Wongus then starting stomping her face with his boot.

The defendants left the area but returned with a rifle which they used to stab her in the chest to make sure she was dead. Stanton obtained the rifle and Wongus stabbed her. The body was wrapped and moved into a wooded area in an effort to hide the body. They returned at some point and poured bleach on the victim in an attempt to destroy any forensic evidence. Her decomposed body was found wrapped in plastic in the woods.

Frederick County – Ean Davis Lattimore

In May of 2018, Davis, who was 17 years old and a high school junior, attended an after prom party. He and his associate got into a beef in the basement of the home with a group of boys from Montgomery County. The two groups took the argument out onto the front lawn of the home at which time Davis pulled out a gun and started spraying the front of the house with bullets. The victim, Genesis McCarter-Berretto, went to the front door to see what was going on as the Montgomery County boys were running back into the house. She was struck in the neck with a bullet and died nearly instantaneously in the front entryway of the residence.

Davis was on juvenile probation for two cases at the time this offense occurred. He had just recently been released from Mountain Meadow which was a residential juvenile commitment facility. He also committed a robbery while he was out on bond on this case. His request for a waiver was denied.

Davis ended up pleading to voluntary manslaughter and received a 10 year DOC sentence.

Frederick County – Edwin Boj and Brandon Boj

Attempted Murder, 1st Deg Assault and Participation in a Criminal Gang. The victim, a high school student, got off the school bus in the afternoon, and these two youth were waiting for him. One of them pointed a gun at him, and the other approached with a machete and put it to the victims' throat. They told him that he was going to die. The victim was beaten severely and kicked about the head and body. He was able to get away with no permanent injuries. There were numerous community members and other juveniles who got off the bus who watched this happen. Edwin Boj was denied transfer to juvenile court and pled guilty to Attempted Murder as an adult. Brandon Boj had his case transferred to juvenile court where he pled guilty and was committed to Victor Cullen.

Frederick County – Welch and Gieser

These two 17 year old boys are charged with 1st Deg Assault (strangulation), hate crime, and robbery, after targeting a transgender person and beating him severely. The victim is recovering physically, but is not comfortable going out alone or in public places. Pending transfer both in juvenile facility. While pending trial in juvenile detention, the one youth has had multiple problems complying and is stating repeatedly that he will not participate in any rehabilitation or therapy when out. The committed co-defendant of this act was on supervised probation.

Frederick County – Sean Imes

More than 15 involvements with police, 6 cases opened with the juvenile court, placed in juvenile facilities. While 16 and already under supervision of the juvenile court he was charged with Gun charges and MV theft at 16yrs. He was given a full hearing and a court transferred these charges to juvenile court and ultimately pled guilty to both the gun and MV theft. While on probation he also committed an armed robbery of a 7-11 and a customer, and a MV theft. While awaiting trial on the armed robbery case, the Court allowed him to stay at the Victor Cullen Center instead of detention. He was ultimately removed after he assaulted a staff member and pled guilty in adult court to this assault, as well as 2 other cases: a MV Theft, and a Conspiracy to commit armed robbery and separate gun charges. At the time he pled guilty as an adult, he had 5 open cases within the juvenile court system, 3 with outstanding restitution to victims. Victor Cullen was his 3rd placement by the juvenile courts.

Frederick County – William Sewell and Marquis Scotland

At 3pm in the afternoon, school buses had just dropped kids off in the apartment complex when these two youth came searching for another youth. They stopped and loaded a gun, and then they both charged after the victim's group. The victim's group ran, but the two shot and chased them, repeatedly shooting into the group of boys while they were fleeing. The entire incident was caught on surveillance cameras in the apartment complex. Both of these youth were 17 at the time of the incident and had juvenile court history. One of them had been placed in juvenile committed placements 5 times--- residential treatment center twice, an evaluation unit, and Victor Cullen twice. The Department claimed he successfully completed Victor Cullen the 2nd time after just 3 months, and 31 days later he was committing this crime. Transfer was

denied for both, and both sentenced as adults, the primary aggressor serving time in the DOC.

Frederick County – Neal Hall

While under supervision by the Juvenile Court Hall was involved in two additional offenses. Possession of Handgun on his person Jan 2017 he was released on bond in the adult case, and 4 months later while still being supervised by DJS, he committed the second offense--- possession of a handgun, 1st Degree Assault after he shot another youth in the leg. Hall targeted the youth, finding him walking through a neighborhood and shooting him. Hall had an extensive history of gun violence in the juvenile court system, none of which was appropriately sentenced--- every time he went before the court he was continued in the community. While supervised by DJS, he was a shooting victim twice, recovering each time only to be charged himself with additional gun related charges. In addition to being shot twice, he was at the scene of 3 shootings. The risk to the community and the youth was clear to everyone involved, but for three years the juvenile court identified that they had no programs that were appropriate for this youth. His last two offenses landed him in adult jail at 17.

Frederick County – Victor Cullen Center

7 youth charged with Riot while in juvenile placement at the Victor Cullen Center, at the time this was the only hardware secure facility in MD. The attack on staff occurred after a youth choked another youth until he turned blue; a staff member wrote the youth up, giving him a behavior report that he didn't like. When he was written up, the offending youth and 8 others ganged up on the staff to get them to change the report, so he wouldn't be in trouble. De-escalation for over an hour had no

effect. When a 63 year old staff member walked into a room, one of the primary offenders came up from behind and punched him so hard it knocked him out cold and broke his jaw. This man was walking into a room with his hands down to his side, was attacked from behind, and then spent the next months with his mouth wired shut. The same youth proceeded to beat the superintendent with metal cuffs and did the same to the original victim again. Another staff member was fleeing from the room, when attacked. In this case the primary youth involved were 17 years old, between them had been in five prior placements within the state of Maryland, had more than 15 police arrests.

Frederick County – Nazir Wells

His first case was in 2016 as a 14 year old. He had a mix of very serious crimes as well as some minor offenses. Here are the major ones, culminating in his arrest for a handgun and PWID at the age of 17.

10/1/2016 a 17 year old female in Walkersville arranged to sell marijuana to a friend. Her friend, along with 9 other males including Nazir Wells, set up a “lick.” When she arrived, they surrounded her, stuck pellet rifle in her face, beat her, kicked her, robbed her, and shot her with the pellet gun. Ean Davis and Uel Boama were also involved in this. Due to his young age (15) he was placed on probation for conspiracy to commit a robbery on 1/7/2017.

5/14/17 at least 5 masked and gloved young men carrying guns burst into a house on Pennsylvania Ave in Frederick. The 7 occupants of the house were held at gun point as the men went through the house. Phones, drugs, and money were stolen

from the residence. Nazir was committed to DJS after being found involved for Armed Robbery. Ezra Smith was a codefendant.

Mr. Wells was released from his commitment on 1/2/18. On 6/21/18, while inside of the Frederick County Courthouse awaiting his own court case, Mr. Wells spotted the getaway driver from the armed robbery inside of the courthouse. That individual cooperated with authorities in both identifying the individuals involved and in being prepared to testify against them at trial. Further, that same individual was also a witness in another pending case against Mr. Wells. Mr. Wells rejected multiple offers that morning and requested a trial. It was at that time that the getaway driver/witness entered the courthouse. Mr. Wells from the second floor had his phone out as if taking photos or a video of the individual and started to call him a "snitch bitch." He was detained, charged, and found involved in witness retaliation.

5/24/19 he was charged with assault after just turning 17. He expressed a desire to no longer be under the juvenile jurisdiction, his case was waived to the criminal court and he was placed on adult probation.

8/31/19 there was a shooting outside of Café 611. 4-5 guns were believed to be involved, and multiple victims were identified. A handgun was recovered from a storm drain and a DNA sample taken from the gun was matched to Nazir Wells' DNA. He was charged and received a 5 year s/a/b 18 month sentence. In conjunction with the serving the arrest warrant for the gun, a search and seizure warrant was served at his residence and a large quantity of marijuana and cash were located. Despite being on adult probation, despite being charged as an adult with a gun, and despite the PWID being a felony, that case had to be charge in the juvenile court and had to be waived to criminal

court. That is a pretty good example of how the system works where despite all of that his felony still started in juvenile. (It was waived and he pled to PWID and got 5 years suspended and consecutive to the gun).

Frederick County – Nicholas Benjamin

Nicholas Benjamin, 16, between 1/4/17 and 7/22/17 he was charged with 14 incidents that were referred to SAO. This is in spite of being on GPS, community detention, or in detention for 71 of those days, and under the jurisdiction of the court since March 9. During this time there were 8 instances where there was some indication he was in possession of a gun.

We took the rare step on having him placed on community detention (house arrest) at his arraignment on March 9, 2017 due to the numerous charges, as well as the nature of them. The first wave of cases included PWID and theft of guns. He was on community detention until 4/6/17.

On 4/11/17 he was charged after a discharge of firearm into the house on Linden Ave. He was detained until 4/27/17, at which point he was placed on community detention until 5/11/17.

On 5/22/17 he was charged with assault and carrying a dangerous weapon with the intent to injure following an incident where he and a group of people went to the home of a teenage female and he went after her with a knife.

He was again placed on community detention on July 6, 2017 until July 19. In the week he was off of community detention, between July 19 and 27, he was charged with assault and there were two police incident reports in which he was reported to be with a gun. This is in addition to an investigation into him possessing a gun at his house

while on community detention in July. He posted a photo on Instagram at his house of holding a gun and his community detention monitor can be seen.

On 9/12/17 and while on GPS, he was arrested after a shootout in his neighborhood. A group in a car drove by his house while he was outside and fired shots at his house. He chased after them and fired shots at the car. Middle of the day with people around. A search warrant was conducted and three handguns were located. He was charged with first degree assaults and handgun crimes. He ultimately pled as an adult to all three guns and got 15 s/a/b 18 months. Shortly after his release he was again involved in guns. He was being investigated for a first degree assault by pointing at the Sheetz when the police got a drug tip on him. They used the assault investigation with the tip to do another search warrant. PWID and two more firearms came from that.

Garrett County – Devon Lorenzo Adams and Andrew Elverton McLean

The two co-defendants, charged in April 2001, who were juveniles aged 17 when they were charged “as adults.”

In the early morning hours of April 26, 2001, three youth were reported as escapees from the Backbone Mt. Youth Center in Garrett County. They were captured approximately one-half mile from the residence where most of their subsequent crimes occurred during the time of their escape. It was later determined they had been at this house, awaiting an occupant to return for approximately 12 hours.

They had traveled on foot, heading west although they thought they were headed east toward railroad tracks to try to “hop a train” to get home. They came upon the residence of William Fredlock IV, Amy Buser and their 2-year old son. Buser and the

child had left earlier. They waited and watched Fredlock leave from the residence and tried to steal his truck that was parked at the house. Unable to do that, they broke into the house to look for keys, but could not find them.

They then decided to steal other items, including two shotguns, a Marine Corps issued knife and some cash/change. They cut the phone lines so that, if anyone came home to the residence, they could not call for help.

They entered the detached garage and hatched a plan to steal the vehicle Fredlock would drive when returning home. A chair was secured to a trailer inside the garage and they gathered rope to tie him to the chair. A fireplace poker was collected as the weapon they were going to use to make him helpless to steal the truck.

Buser returned home first with the 2-year old in his cars seat. She observed the garage door to be slightly open, which was unusual. She got out of her Jeep, leaving it running, to open the garage doors. When she began to open the door, she noticed feet inside and ran back to her vehicle. She saw the three youth come out of her garage and two of them charged at her vehicle with objects in hand. She fought one of them at her door to get her door closed and keep it closed, as she took action to keep the other from entering into the vehicle though the passenger-side door. As she was fighting, she was begging them not to hurt her or her child.

She managed to put the Jeep in reverse and backed onto Md. Route 135, a State highway, with the passenger door open and the arm rest being ripped off by the defendant at that door. She went to a neighbor's where the police were called.

Defendant Devon Lorenzo Adams was the one attempting to get into the vehicle from the passenger side. He pled guilty to second degree burglary, first degree assault

on Ms. Buser, second degree assault on the child and attempted carjacking. For those crimes, he was sentenced to 12 years. When his parole was approaching, I wrote as follows:

The juvenile record of Devon shows his propensity for violence, with numerous assault charges and a deadly weapon charge. The PSI Report...also shows numerous discipline referrals in school for disrespect, loitering and fighting.

Defendant Andrew Elverton McLean was identified as the one attempting to gain entry to the Jeep and its occupants through the driver's door. He denied involvement, even up to sentencing, claiming most actions were those of the third youth and that he had attempted to keep that third youth from chasing Ms. Buser.

He had two trials, due to severance of some charges. He was convicted of reckless endangerment, attempted carjacking, attempted motor vehicle theft, second degree burglary and first degree burglary. He was sentenced to 12 years.

He was committed and placed at Backbone Mt. Youth Center subsequent to an adjudication for robbery with a deadly weapon.

The third youth was identified by Ms. Buser as not approaching her vehicle, he was complaint when arrested and cooperated by providing a statement believed by corroborating evidence to be truthful. The State agreed for his case to be heard in the Juvenile Court.

Harford County – Andrew Zaragoza

Zaragoza was 16 years old when he beat his mother to death with a hammer and stabbed her 7 times in 2017. Harford County Sheriff's found his mother dead in a

second floor bedroom. He was convicted of Second Degree Murder and received a 15 year sentence.

Harford County – Jaylin Brown

The Defendant was 16 years old who shot a 19 year old in the back while he was sitting in his car at Edgewood High School. Brown was convicted of Second Degree Murder and Use of a Firearm. Sentencing is set for September 15, 2020. The State is seeking a sentence of 65 years.

Harford County – Jonquez Pugh

The Defendant is a 17 year old who fired a shot through the front driver side window of a car as a woman drove her teenage son and his two friends away from a fight.

The same Defendant was also convicted of reckless endangerment for shooting his friend in the foot. His total sentence was 16 and a half years.

Howard County – Monti Fleming

In 2006, at the age of 15, the Defendant was convicted of First Degree Murder. He and the victim had a verbal argument. The victim walked away. While he was walking away the Defendant shot at him striking him in the back and killing him. The Judge described his actions as brutal and barbaric. He was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

The Defendant was also convicted of two additional cases. The Defendant was convicted of armed robbery where he robbed and pistol whipped the victim. He was also convicted of Attempted First Degree Murder. The Defendant accused the victim of speaking to the police about drug dealing in the area. The victim went home. The

Defendant went to the victim's home and asked him to come outside. The victim did. When the victim went outside the Defendant started shooting at him. The victim was shot in the leg.

Howard County – Malik Davis

The Defendant, 17 years old, a co-defendant and another individual, whose case was ultimately sent to Juvenile Court, robbed and stabbed the victim over money owed for a marijuana transaction. The victim needed 6 surgeries to repair his intestines. He also had a collapsed lung. A doctor from Shock Trauma was prepared to testify that the victim would have died from his injuries without timely medical intervention.

Howard County – Melvin Jacome

In October of 2018, the Defendant, age 15, planned to rob an individual during a marijuana transaction. The Defendant came to the robbery with a semi-automatic Keltec handgun loaded with hollow-point bullets and affixed with a green laser pointer. When the robbery fell apart the two groups separated. The Defendant got back into his vehicle and opened fire. He fatally truck the 14 year old victim.

Howard County – Alton Young

In 1993, when he was 17, the Defendant was convicted of First Degree Murder and First Degree Rape in the killing of his home teacher. The Defendant had been suspended from school and the victim was tutoring the Defendant at home when he raped and killed her. His victim was 57 years old. Young was sentenced to life in prison.

Howard County – Bernard Miller

The Defendant was convicted of murder in the carjacking and death of Pamela Basu in 1993. He was 17 when Dr. Basu was dragged to her death.

Montgomery County – Lee Boyd Malvo

In 2006 Lee Boyd Malvo the younger of the two D.C. snipers received a sentence of Life without Parole for six murders in Montgomery County. In 2002 the killing and shooting spree terrorized the Washington metropolitan area. By his own admission he was involved in a total of 22 murders. He was 17 years old. Even shooting a 13 year old student in front of his middle school.

Are these the kind of defendants you want in Juvenile Court and Juvenile housing? Thirty one juvenile Defendants who committed very adult crimes. I am sure there are many more.

If all these Defendants start in the juvenile system they will spend at least a year in a facility like Hickey while we try to waive them up to adult court. Do we really want these kinds of criminals starting in our juvenile system and possibly harming staff or other juveniles. This is what can happen when you put these kind of Defendants in a juvenile facility.

Over the last several years the Legislature and Rules Committee has done a great deal to protect the rights of juveniles. In 2009 and updated in 2015, the Legislature passed Criminal Procedure 10-105(a)(7) and 10-106. This expungement procedure allows for the immediate expungement of an adult criminal record once a case has been waived back to juvenile court. There is no need to wait until the juvenile case is completed or juvenile probation is done.

The Legislature also changed Criminal Procedure 4-202. This statute establishes a presumption that juveniles charged as adults will be housed in a juvenile

facility unless there is no space, the juvenile is released or the State proves and a judge finds on the record that such a transfer is not in the interest of public safety. Another change that was not available before.

In cases where juveniles are charged as adults and residing in an adult facility the State's Attorney's Office must act quickly.

Criminal Procedure 4-202.1 requires a preliminary hearing date on these juveniles to be set within 15 days. The adult time period is 30 days. That is one half the time required in adult cases. This means an attorney will screen these cases quickly and if it is determined the case should proceed, then will take the case to a Grand Jury or preliminary hearing. This assures that another independent body finds probable cause to proceed with the case. Yet another protection put in place for the juvenile.

There is no reason to change the statutory scheme that was put in place decades ago to handle violent juveniles. When you review the crimes committed by the above all of these crimes are very adult crimes and the criminals should be treated as adults.