



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

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#DRELAY

June 25, 2015

Ms. Denise E. O'Donnell, Director  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Office of Justice Programs  
801 Seventh Street NW  
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Director O'Donnell,

I am pleased to write this letter in strong support of the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention's application for the Technology Innovation for Public Safety (TIPS) Grant. The establishment of an automated gunshot detection technology system integrated with Baltimore's vast network of closed circuit television cameras will allow the Baltimore Police Department to leverage current capabilities in order to more swiftly aid victims, collect evidence, apprehend offenders and, ultimately, target and decrease gun violence in Baltimore.

Despite the progress made at reducing gun violence, Baltimore City has recently experienced a considerable increase in gun violence over the past month and a half, following the Freddie Gray incident. Since the beginning of May 2015, Baltimore has had the most homicides and non-fatal shootings in the past four decades.

The crime rate in Baltimore City drives up the crime rate across the state of Maryland. Baltimore City makes up slightly less than 11 percent of our states' population, yet it is home to 60 percent of murders, 32 percent of all violent crime and 63 percent of nonfatal shootings. Focusing law enforcement efforts to decrease violent crime in Baltimore City will have a positive impact on residents across the state. Increasing security, stability and peace of mind will provide a better environment for economic growth and prosperity .

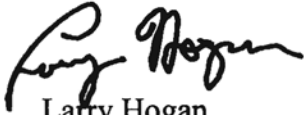
The men and women of the Baltimore Police Department are on the frontlines of fighting violent crime every day and have done a courageous job actively working to stem the recent spike in gun violence. Providing them with the ability to receive instant notifications of gunshot locations will aid in their efforts by improving response time to incidents, capturing information to aid the investigation and prosecution of crime and helping inform law enforcement of areas within the city where residents call in a report of shots fired at a disproportionately low rate.

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Targeting and decreasing violent crime is of utmost importance to the citizens of Maryland, and my administration is strongly committed to working with law enforcement to maintain peace and order in every community. To those ends, I strongly encourage the Office of Justice Programs to give favorable consideration to this application.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and last name "Hogan" clearly distinguishable.

Larry Hogan  
Governor

LH/cs/lb