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Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget

Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety & Administration Subcommittee Delegate Gabriel Acevero, Chair
February 18, 2026

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee
Senator Shelly Hettleman, Chair
February 19, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee today as you review the proposed operating budget for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) for fiscal year 2027. We thank our assigned DLS analyst, Madelyn Miller, for her thoughtful and thorough analysis.

I would like to start by introducing the panel with me today, our CFO and our Criminal Justice Grants Division Director. I am grateful to our management team who are all committed to rebuilding GOCPP and serving as a coordinating office that advises the Governor on criminal justice strategies.

A significant part of GOCPP's work is making grant awards to law enforcement agencies, victim services organizations, and organizations serving justice involved youth. We are committed to awarding these funds fairly, equitably, and in accordance with the Governor's public safety priorities.

GOCPP Responses

1. GOCPP should comment on whether it has a target for the percentage of award notifications issued prior to the award start date for fiscal 2027 or future fiscal years. (Page 6)

Agency Response: GOCPP has been working on rebuilding the agency. While the agency does not currently have a set target, we are striving to issue the greatest number of notifications possible prior to the award start date. For the

July 1, 2025 start date, GOCPP issued 49.9% of notifications on time and will strive to continue to increase that percentage in future fiscal years.

2. GOCPP should comment on CICB's workload since the start of fiscal 2026 in comparison to recent fiscal years, including for emergency claims. (Page 10)

Agency Response: In FY2025 (July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024), CICB received 392 applications. This compares to 434 claims received during the same period in FY2026 (July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025), representing a 10.7% increase.

Additionally, there were 20 emergency claims received in the first half of fiscal 2026, compared to zero during the same period in fiscal 2025.

3. GOCPP should discuss why it discontinued the VSU performance measures that were newly reported with the fiscal 2026 submission. (Page 11)

Agency Response: Because of changes in reporting requirements under Chapter 705, these measures are now included in the annual Criminal Injuries Compensation Report. Consequently, GOCPP has discontinued them in the Managing for Results (MFR).

4. DLS recommends deleting the \$47,132,583 general fund appropriation for the SAPP enhancement funding. (Page 21)

Agency Response: GOCPP disagrees. GOCPP supports the Governor's proposed budget. SAPP is a very flexible funding source for local law enforcement. Because it has less restrictive spending criteria and reporting requirements, SAPP allows local law enforcement agencies, large or small, to put the money to its highest need.

5. DLS recommends deleting the \$2,500,000 general fund appropriation for the GVRS grant. (Page 22)

Agency Response: GOCPP disagrees. GOCPP supports the Governor's proposed budget. This funding is aligned with the Governor's goal of reducing violent crime in Maryland.

6. DLS recommends adopting committee narrative requesting GOCPP create additional outcome measures related to public safety or crime prevention and to submit its proposed measures by November 15, 2026. (Page 27)

Agency Response: GOCPP concurs with the recommendation.

7. As VOCA funding and expenditures remain of great importance to the State, DLS recommends adding budget language restricting \$100,000 in general funds pending the submission of an annual report about past expenditures and outcomes, as well as the planned fiscal 2026 grants. (Page 29)

Agency Response: GOCPP concurs with the recommendation.

8. To align the working appropriation with anticipated spending, DLS recommends that the fiscal 2026 federal fund authorization be reduced by \$3.0 million. (Page 30)

Agency Response: GOCPP concurs with the recommendation.

9. To ensure that information about CICB's operations and budgetary concerns are promptly reported to the General Assembly, DLS recommends that \$100,000 in general funds be withheld pending the publication of the CICB Fiscal 2026 Annual Report by November 1, 2026. The report should also include a discussion of how GOCPP is ensuring alignment between how it reports data between the annual report and its fiscal 2028 MFR submission, as well as a discussion of CICB's ability to achieve time standards set in statute. (Page 31)

Agency Response: GOCPP concurs with the recommendation.