



MARYLAND SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION, INC.



Sheriff Jim DeWees
Carroll County, Md.
MSA President

October 21, 2024

The Office of Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Moore,

On behalf of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association, I'm writing to urge you to immediately demand the resignation of Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) Secretary Vincent Schiraldi.

Since Schiraldi's appointment in 2022, his extreme policies and lack of leadership as the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services, have directly made communities less safe in Maryland. These extreme policies are counter to everything you; the Maryland Sheriffs, and the citizens of Maryland have come to expect from the Department of Juvenile Services.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Maryland have grown increasingly frustrated with the Department of Juvenile Services' inability and disinterest in holding violent juvenile offenders accountable for their actions. Consistently in Maryland, juveniles have been charged with serious violent crimes, only to be turned right back over to a parent or guardian, and back out on the streets to commit more crimes. Secretary Schiraldi's policies are dangerous and sadly result in creating new victims on a daily basis.

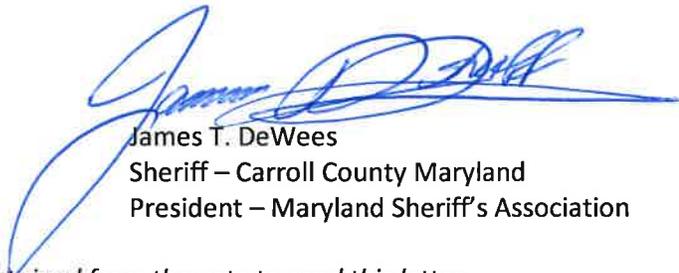
As recently as last week, a Howard County 17-year-old was charged with a murder in Columbia, Maryland. The teen was arrested at Howard High School for the murder and found to be in possession of a loaded handgun in his backpack. The teen had a Department of Juvenile Services' ankle monitor on at the time of his arrest. A second 14-year-old juvenile from Anne Arundel County was arrested in connection to the same murder. The Superintendent of the Howard County Public Schools expressed extreme frustration and advised media outlets that the 17-year-old had recently enrolled in the school district and received support from the Department of Juvenile Services. The Superintendent added that only after a District Court Bail Hearing, did he learn of the teens' past "very serious alleged violent offenses" in another county.

In Prince George's County an 18-year-old was arrested on gun and drug charges in Langley Park. Just four years prior to this arrest he was charged and convicted with the stabbing murder of a cab driver. It's critically apparent that no rehabilitation of this juvenile offender occurred while under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services.

In Maryland's largest populated jurisdiction, Montgomery County, juvenile-related violent crime has increased 95% and specifically, robberies have increased 108%!

These cases highlight the lack of accountability and oversight of the Department of Juvenile Services and specifically Secretary Schiraldi. Secretary Schiraldi's policies and theories on how to combat juvenile crime simply don't work!

In closing, the Maryland Sheriffs' Association urges you to immediately ask Secretary Schiraldi for his resignation. The Association believes that the selection of a new Department of Juvenile Services Secretary and specifically one that understands how to modernize the current system, which includes protecting the public from violent juvenile offenders, is the only way to move forward and reform a system that is completely broken!



James T. DeWees
Sheriff – Carroll County Maryland
President – Maryland Sheriff's Association

Footnote: the sheriffs from these agencies abstained from the vote to send this letter

*Prince George's County
Montgomery County
Charles County
Howard County
Anne Arundel County*