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B-360 AND BALTIMORE CITY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INTRODUCE DIVERSION PROGRAM TO TURN DIRT BIKE OFFENSES INTO PATHWAY FOR OPPORTUNITY

New innovative partnership aims to reimagine public safety

BALTIMORE, MD (April 29, 2021) -- Today, B-360 and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office (SAO) announced a new innovative partnership focused on public safety by diverting people away from the criminal legal system for dirt bike charges, traffic violations, and nonviolent offenses.

With the summer months coming, people often ride dirt bikes in Baltimore City - part of a tradition and culture that has been present for generations. But without proper safety, they can be dangerous. It is illegal to own and operate a dirt bike on public or private property in the City. For those in violation of the law, use of a dirt bike is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for each offense or imprisonment for up to 90 days and a misdemeanor conviction on your record. Dirt bikes can also be seized without a warrant if an officer has probable cause. Both partners recognize that incarceration is not the way out of this problem. This partnership intends to turn criminal nonviolent offenses into pathways for opportunity.

For years, elected officials and community members across the City have been discussing diversion programs to help preserve dirt bike culture but also maintain public safety. B-360 is a social enterprise that uses dirt bike culture to end the cycle of poverty, disrupt the prison pipeline and build bridges in communities that will shift riders out of traffic into programming to gain transferable skills and create safe spaces to ride. The group will take referrals from cases in the State's Attorney's Office, and participants will engage in a 20-hour program that includes dirt bike and road safety, entrepreneurship and job training, and access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. B-360, the SAO and Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) all agree on the need for diversion.

"I am proud that B-360 is being recognized with the city's efforts to reimagine public safety as well as serve as a national model for not only other cities with dirt bikes, but demonstrate the value of proactive approaches that invest in the community," **said Brittany Young, founder of [B-360](#)**. "Since 2017, we have transitioned riders, young and old, out of traffic and created opportunities to challenge the narrative of who and what we can be. Following the Freddie Gray uprising, like a lot of people that love Baltimore, I wanted to see solutions that would aid the city's growth toward better outcomes for youth and Black communities. I am proud of the strides we have made and will continue to grow."

B-360 has hired and trained 36 people over 16 who would have been imprisoned since 2017 -- a cost savings to Baltimore City of \$1.3 million. To date, the organization is on track to save the City \$233 million over the next five years with over 7000 youth under 16 participating in its programming.

"We are very excited to partner with B-360 to divert people to their program for dirt bike offenses," **said Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby**. "Dirt bikes can be dangerous, but we also recognize that arrest and incarceration can also be damaging. We are trying to connect people to services to educate them about the dangers and challenges of dirt bikes. We appreciate the support of BPD and B-360 on this initiative. These types of collaborations are important as we continue to reimagine public safety."

President of the T. Rowe Price Foundation John Brothers, added, "The T. Rowe Price Foundation is a proud supporter of B-360, starting when Brittany Young served as an Elevation Award winner through to supporting B-360's work with the Baltimore Legacy Builders Collective. We look forward to seeing how their amazing work moves forward in the future."

The team at **Brown Advisory continued**, "We are thrilled to support B-360's efforts to change the course of people's lives in Baltimore. The positive change coming in this city will be the result of many different efforts, initiatives and organizations, where a passionate and committed citizen--like Brittany Young--goes beyond saying, 'enough' and to 'I am going to get this done.' Businesses have a responsibility to support those social entrepreneurs and risk-takers--Brown Advisory is proud to stand behind Brittany and the whole B-360 team to build a better Baltimore."

B-360 still needs significant support and funding to make this program sustainable and continue to grow its impact for years to come.

"Being a part of B-360 is a life-changing event that has made me a better person," **said Mike Johnson, a rider and instructor for B-360**. "Knowing you have little brothers and sisters that watch you and that you know you have to guide is remarkable. As a rider, I never had a place to ride or the opportunity to express my talents and show others that I'm also capable of becoming more than just a statistic or a criminal. I want more for the kids I teach and to show them we are more than capable of success."

"Brittany Young exemplifies the talent and dynamism that can be found throughout Baltimore," **said Fagan Harris, president and CEO of [Baltimore Corps](#)**. "From the moment Baltimore

Corps named her an Elevation Awardee in 2016, it was clear that her lived experience as a Black woman, engineer, STEM teacher in West Baltimore, and city native equipped her to make a powerful and transformative difference in the lives of young people. Brittany has also changed the way we see ourselves in Baltimore — we are far more capable, far more powerful, and far more resilient than popular narratives lead us to believe. Brittany is one of the best leaders I've ever met and we're proud to be in community with her and B-360.”

“JOTF is thrilled to support B-360’s efforts to reimagine public safety in Baltimore City through diversion programs to help preserve dirt bike culture while centering public safety,” **said Caryn York, CEO of [the Job Opportunities Task Force](#)**. “JOTF is all too familiar with the far reaching consequences of interactions with the criminal justice system, particularly the criminal record, that can serve as the cause and consequence of poverty. We look forward to partnering with B-360 in this amazing opportunity to collaboratively eliminate punitive policies and create equitable ecosystems.”

Dirt bike cases for individuals under 18 are handled by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). This partnership is aimed at people over 18 who have no violent offenses in their criminal history (per B-360’s legal requirements). When someone is arrested on a dirt bike offense, if they qualify for diversion, the SAO will ask for their case to be postponed for 45-60 days so they can complete 20 hours of programming at B-360. Once they complete the programming, the person will have their case dismissed. B-360 hires participants as instructors or refers them into workforce opportunities with organizations like the [Job Opportunities Task Force](#), [Public Allies](#) and [Baltimore Corps](#).

The SAO has already made three referrals to the program, with one participant having his case dismissed.

B-360 is hopeful that more cities will work with them to create diversion programs for dirt bikes and that more state and local officials will adopt diversion programs to invest in communities instead of incarceration for nonviolent offenses.

For referrals to the B-360 diversion program, please contact diversion@b360baltimore.org.

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About B-360

B-360 has been on a mission to utilize dirt bike culture to end the cycle of poverty, disrupt the prison pipeline, and build bridges in communities. The organization works to shift street riders out of traffic into programming, safe spaces, and opportunities around their love of dirt bikes and skills. Leaders work with all stakeholders, including students, riders, communities, policymakers and elected officials, and law enforcement to create equitable solutions that work for all. **To make a donation to B-360, please visit <https://b360baltimore.org/donate/>.**