

TO: Beloved Community Services Corporation
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: October 9, 2019
RE: Recent Survey among Baltimore City Residents on Proposed Aerial Surveillance Program

From October 2 to 6, 2019, Hart Research Associates conducted a survey among a citywide sample of 500 Baltimore residents age 18 and older. The survey was representative of Baltimore's adult population by key demographics, including race (59% African American, 35% white) and gender (45% male, 55% female). The survey, which has an overall margin of error of $\pm 4.5\%$, was conducted via telephone and included 56% cell phone interviews.

Before we set forth the key survey results in more detail, here is a brief summary of the main findings:

1. Baltimoreans are pessimistic about the city's direction and express deep concern about the crime situation.
2. There is strong support for innovative anti-crime policies, with corresponding views about maintaining personal privacy in fighting back against crime.
3. There is overwhelming and widespread support for the Community Support Program (aerial surveillance), including when respondents are provided with a cursory definition, which speaks volumes about the public's receptivity when the full scale of the CSP is unveiled.

Overall Background:

Baltimore residents are pessimistic about the city's heading, with 23% saying the city is going in the right direction and fully 60% saying things are going in the wrong direction. Better than three in five (63%) African Americans rate the city's heading in negative terms, as do a 53% majority of whites.

Deep concern about the current crime situation is undoubtedly driving these pessimistic attitudes. Three-fifths (60%) of Baltimore residents say the overall level of crime has INCREASED in Baltimore in the past 12 months, 5% say crime has decreased, and 31% say it has stayed the same.

Moreover, a significant proportion of Baltimore residents have personal experience with crime, with 43% of our sample saying that either they

personally or someone close to them has been a victim or witness to a crime in Baltimore.

Broad Approaches to Public Safety

Baltimore residents' eagerness to make progress with the crime situation is borne out by the 59% who agree with the statement that "we should do everything legally possible to stop violent crime, including innovative policies outside traditional law enforcement," compared with 34% who want to "avoid policies that go beyond traditional law enforcement." The former sentiment ("innovative policies outside traditional law enforcement") garners majority support throughout the city, including 57% of African Americans, 63% of whites, 63% of men, and 57% of women.

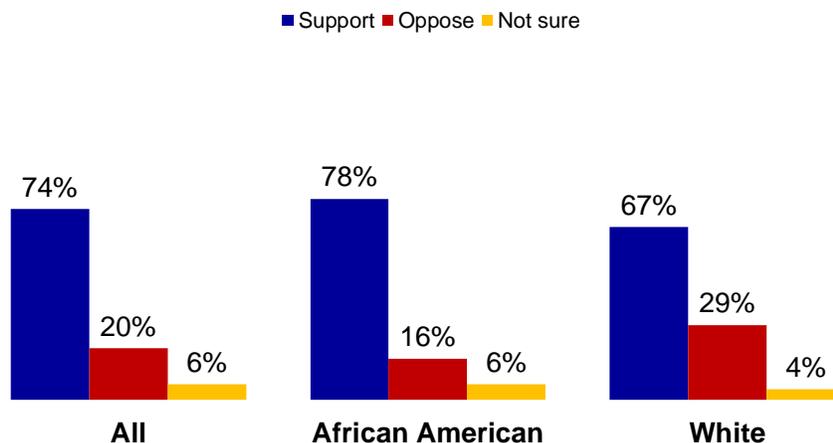
Still, Baltimore residents have some limits (at least in the abstract), with respondents saying by better than two to one that there should be LIMITS to law enforcement, especially when it comes to invading personal privacy. A little less than two-thirds (64%) agree with the preceding statement, compared with 31% who agree that "law enforcement [should] stop violent crime at all costs, even if it means losing some personal privacy."

Reactions to the Community Support Program

While our survey findings point to some possible tensions between Baltimore residents' strong desire to address violent crime and concerns about personal privacy, we note there is overwhelming support for the proposed aerial surveillance program. We measured attitudes with the following two questions.

First, we provided survey respondents with the following bare-bones question, with the following table showing the results by key demographics:

"In general, would you support or oppose a program to conduct aerial surveillance over the city of Baltimore to reduce serious crimes like murder?"



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In addition to the strong overall support, we note the INTENSITY differential, with 57% of Baltimore residents who STRONGLY support aerial surveillance and just 12% who STRONGLY oppose. Moreover, among the sample of respondents who express concern about personal privacy, they nonetheless support aerial surveillance by a solid 67% to 26%.

Support for the aerial surveillance program remains at similar high levels when respondents are provided with a fuller description, with impressive support again by the key demographic of race:

The Baltimore Community Support Program would use camera imagery to help deter and solve community-based crime. A small aircraft flies over the city and provides images that track vehicles and people to and from reported crime scenes. The information is then provided to the Baltimore Police Department to help them solve crimes. An outside independent oversight group would ensure that the system is not being abused, and the program would be entirely paid for by a private donor.

