



**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Nicholas Machado, Campaign Manager

**Date:** 4/1/2024

**Re: Forward Not Backward - The State of the Race for Mayor of Baltimore**

**Overview:**

The Baltimore City mayoral election will come down to a clear and simple choice: Do we continue to move forward under the leadership of Mayor Brandon Scott or return to the corrupt failed broken policies of the past represented by Sheila Dixon?

Mayor Scott won election four years ago promising generational change that would move Baltimore beyond decades of disinvestment. Under his leadership, Baltimore has achieved record decreases in crime and historic low unemployment while investing more money into Baltimore's schools and rec centers than any mayor before him. Vacants are the lowest they've been in decades and the mayor has invested more than 80 million dollars supporting Baltimore's seniors.

Beyond historic progress, Mayor Scott has also led without the corruption and scandal of the past. He is endorsed by unions and progressive leaders who represent the working people of Baltimore. Sheila Dixon's biggest supporter is a Republican funded Super PAC that has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars attempting to rehabilitate a failed politician who left office in disgrace and corruption. The choice for Baltimore's future could not be clearer.

**Key Differences:**

There are many key differences between Mayor Scott and Sheila Dixon. Mayor Scott represents generational change that has moved Baltimore beyond decades of disinvestment. Sheila Dixon would be a return to the corrupt failed broken policies of the past. Dixon's encouragement of support from a Republican-funded Super PAC shows she is still willing to sell out Baltimore City residents to the highest bidder.

The differences could not be clearer on four key areas that will largely determine the election:

- Crime Reduction
- Investments in Baltimore's youth with an emphasis on rec centers, education and opportunity for squeegee youth
- Seniors
- Corruption

African Americans, particularly seniors, are most interested in hearing the differences between the candidates in these key areas. It is important that they understand no matter what Sheila Dixon says today, her actual record tells a different story. Dixon was not the competent and honest city manager she pretends to be. She is still not being honest with voters.

#### Crime Reduction

Under Mayor Scott's leadership, Baltimore has had a 20% decrease in homicides and non-fatal shootings, bringing the homicide rate down to its lowest in nearly a decade. The Mayor has overseen the largest single year reduction in Baltimore's history. Most importantly, the Mayor has reduced crime the right way. Mayor Scott has turned Baltimore away from the failed and broken policies of mass arrests and zero tolerance policing that terrorized black communities.

Sheila Dixon's record is one of failure. Despite what she may claim today, crime significantly increased during Sheila Dixon's time as mayor. On her watch: homicide rates increased and property crimes increased for the first time in years. As mayor, Sheila Dixon continued putting innocent Baltimore residents behind bars. She introduced legislation that would criminalize sitting or lying on the sidewalk for an hour, resulting in more citations and arrests for nuisance crimes. In one year of her administration, 81,000 Baltimore residents were arrested - 13% of the city at that time. Sheila Dixon represents the broken, failed crime policies of the past. As mayor - and as City Council President - she championed zero tolerance policing, which terrorized Black communities, oversaw the launch of the corrupt Gun Trace Task Force that brutally beat and robbed citizens, and she supported a policy that hid the names of Baltimore Police officers who shot civilians from the public.

#### Investments in Baltimore's Youth

Mayor Scott's promise to turn Baltimore away from decades of disinvestment is possibly most evident in his record investments in Baltimore's youth. The mayor has invested \$80 million more per year in public education than any other Mayor in Baltimore history and built or completely



renovated 12 schools. Mayor Scott is opening rec centers, not closing them. He has opened 4 new recreation centers and has 7 more under construction so Baltimore youth have safe places to spend their time. Mayor Scott is the first mayor to actually provide opportunity for Baltimore's squeegee youth. He launched the Squeegee Collaborative to connect Baltimore's youth to jobs, resulting in 85% fewer squeegee-related incidents.

Sheila Dixon failed to turn Baltimore away from disinvesting in Baltimore's youth. Sheila Dixon implemented significant cuts to the Department of Parks and Recreation, among other youth programs, resulting in 5 recreation center closures, shortened library hours, and shuttered pools. She cut education funding in each of her budgets.

### Seniors

Despite historic challenges like leading through the COVID pandemic, Mayor Scott has kept his promise to seniors. He established the city's first Office of Older Adults Affairs and Advocacy and invested \$86 million on senior programs, such as home repairs and energy assistance to ensure seniors can stay in their home. Sheila Dixon failed to meet the moment when confronted with challenges. She implemented a double-digit cut in funding to the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education, resulting in layoffs, longer wait times, and reductions in services for seniors' meals and transportation programs.

### Corruption

Corruption is perhaps the largest area of contrast between Mayor Scott and Sheila Dixon. Under Mayor Scott, Baltimore has not been distracted by corruption and scandal, which has allowed a laser focus on solving problems. As a result, the Mayor has achieved reductions in crime the right way, without mass arrests and zero tolerance policing. He's invested more in education and recreation than any mayor in history, while keeping his promises to our seniors. Most importantly he's led without the scandal and corruption of the past.

Sheila Dixon has a long record of corruption. Starting in 2003, Dixon was under investigation for money laundering and enriching her campaign chair with \$600,000 worth of government contracts while trying to strip the public and City Council's ability to review City payments to vendors. Dixon tried to cut the Baltimore City Fire Department budget, closing firehouses and stiffing retirees on their pensions, all while giving herself a secret pay raise and an \$83,000 per year pension, which she got to keep despite resigning from office after being arrested for embezzlement.



Even today, Sheila Dixon still hasn't learned her lesson. She has openly encouraged and sought out the support of a Republican Super PAC that has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into her campaign. No matter what she says today, Sheila Dixon is still all about Sheila Dixon and willing to sell us out if it means advancing her own personal self interests.

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