



## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **Vignarajah condemns Council President's unwillingness to fight gun violence as disqualifying**

*"This attitude explains why his resume on public safety is so thin after ten years in office, even after serving as Chair of Public Safety"*

**BALTIMORE, MD. April 1, 2020 -**

In response to the Council President's misleading statement today that 'Gun violence is a disease in Baltimore that needs to be cured, not fought,' Vignarajah released the following statement:

"The next mayor's most important job is ending the bloodshed. After a decade in office, Brandon Scott still doesn't get it. Over 300 of our neighbors die every year from gun violence. We're not going to solve this through pandering and politics, we have to get the killers off the streets. Of course, we need to be investing in the future through better schools, job training, and economic development, but if we're going to end the massacre, we need a mayor who wakes up every day focused on *fighting* violent crimes. If he doesn't think fighting gun violence is part of the job description, he should take his name off the ballot.

"Let's get this straight: because gun violence is a public health threat, we have to focus on the cure instead of fighting it? Can you imagine him saying this about a different public health threat, like COVID-19? It would be the equivalent of him saying we should focus on a vaccine, and not fight it with hand hygiene, social distancing and other measures. A true leader knows that a crisis calls for prevention, cure, containment, anything just and in your power to end what is taking lives every day. That's leadership.

“Especially today, Brandon not appreciating the irony and hypocrisy of his statement is hard to fathom.”

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