

# Police Continue Probe In Inner Harbor Shooting

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City police continued Monday to investigate a double shooting that occurred this weekend inside one of the shopping pavilions at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Meanwhile, Mayor Sheila Dixon is speaking out about what happened. "I feel confident that Commissioner Bealefeld and his team are assessing the situation and looking at strategies and plans. ... We don't need that to happen in our harbor. We have to send that kind of message and we can't tolerate it," the mayor said Monday.

Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said a 20-year-old man was shot in the leg and a 17-year-old boy was shot in the forearm Saturday night. It happened after someone pulled a gun during a fight inside the Light Street Pavilion. Guglielmi said neither suffered life-threatening injuries. Officers said both victims were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Police reportedly received a warning that the attack was going to happen just before shots rang out.

"Shortly before the shooting, we had an individual approach the officers patrolling the Inner Harbor. The individual told the officers there was an armed person, and that he was described as a black male with a white T-shirt and blue jeans, and he had a heavysset build. While in the process of looking for that suspect, shots rang out from inside the Light Street Pavilion," detective Donny Moses said.

Guglielmi said officers are interviewing witnesses and reviewing surveillance camera footage and are confident that they will identify a suspect "fairly soon."

Gun violence is rare in the harbor, which is popular with tourists. But police deployed additional officers downtown after a series of seemingly random beatings by groups of young people earlier this year.

"The Inner Harbor is for everyone. It is the premier destination for Baltimore's families and millions of visitors. We will do everything in our power to make sure it stays that way," Dixon said. "This incident is yet another reminder of the need for zero tolerance for illegal guns. We must all agree and ensure that if you carry a loaded, illegal gun in Baltimore -- you go to jail," Dixon continued.

The mayor and city council members said a solution to the violence lies in the courts.

"At some point, it also becomes beyond a police issue, and that's my concern. We need to make sure if we're arresting these people that they're actually prosecuted, as opposed to entering the revolving door," said 11th District Councilman William Cole.

"Our prosecutors and our courts need to do a better job of applying those laws and making sure they get these stiff sentences for the crimes they're committing," said Councilman Jack Young.

"When we identify individuals who are carrying illegal weapons and we arrest, then the system has to do the rest," Dixon said.

The state's attorney's office said they've gone to Annapolis to pass stronger laws but they keep getting shot down.

"Especially in the area of gun crimes, gangs and witness intimidation. These laws aren't passed, and when we question and look behind the decision, we see a lot of the votes are from the public defenders who represent a majority on the House Judiciary Committee," said Marty Burns of the city state's attorney's office.

Meanwhile, Guglielmi said police will "come down hard" on those who go to the Harbor to cause trouble.

Tourists said they were alarmed but not deterred from visiting.

"I would think that (the shooting) would probably be random and that it would happen in any town and it wouldn't stop me from coming," Tom Mellott said.