

PS COMMITTEE #3
October 6, 2011

MEMORANDUM

October 5, 2011

TO: Public Safety Committee
FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*
SUBJECT: Update: 3rd District Staffing Initiatives

Today the Committee will receive an update on the increased staffing in the 3rd District. Those expected to brief the Committee:

Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department
Assistant Chief Wayne Jerman, MCPD
Commander Donald Johnson, 3D, MCPD

BACKGROUND

The County Executive recommended, as part of the FY12 Police Department Operating Budget, a staffing enhancement in the 3rd District. Staffing was to be increased in the downtown Central Business District (CBD) in Silver Spring, and the Ida Sector in the northeastern part of the district. This staffing increase was approved by Council for a total cost of \$2,392,810 in FY12.

One issue that arose during budget deliberations was the desire to retain the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, which had been slated for elimination. The 3rd District Enhancement, as proposed, was dependent on the redeployment of staff from SRO positions to the 3rd District. While funding could be added to pay for additional police officers, the Department would have to wait for a graduating class (Spring 2012) to fully implement all three staffing initiatives – Silver Spring CBD, Ida Sector, and SROs. The Department advised that all three could be done within a modified timeframe, and could include additional backfilling with overtime.

Silver Spring CBD: At the time the budget was approved, the department had planned to create a CBD team consisting of two shifts, staffed by two Sergeants and 10 Police Officers:

- **Day Shift – Tuesday through Friday – 10am to 8pm**
- **Evening Shift – Friday through Monday – 4pm to 2am**

The day shift would provide high visibility in the CBD. Officers would make frequent contacts with merchant and business representatives. They would also focus on vehicular and traffic issues, including even rush hour and a number of pedestrian safety concerns. They would patrol parking facilities and engage in crowd control and aggressive patrol in the late afternoon and early evening.

The evening shift would provide crowd control and aggressive control. Officers would patrol mass transit centers and parking facilities. They would address drug and criminal conduct in high-crime areas such as Day’s Inn, work closely with the Gang Unit and Special Assignment Team to identify potential violators, and provide traffic and crowd control during Fillmore Events.

Ida Sector: The Department planned to add 16 officers (four redeployed and 12 new) to augment staffing of both beats (Ida 1 and Ida 2) in the Ida sector. There would not be a need for additional supervisors as these officers will be assigned to existing shifts.

DISCUSSION ISSUES

- 1) At the last briefing during budget, the Department advised that it would fully upstaff the Silver Spring CBD and partially upstaff the Ida Sector by November 2011. What is the current status?
- 2) What has the Department’s experience been with the Fillmore’s opening?
- 3) Have there been any other issues or concerns about upstaffing these two areas?