



## ADVISORY COMMISSION ON POLICING

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December 18, 2023

Chief Marcus G. Jones  
Montgomery County Police Department  
J. Thomas Manger Public Safety Headquarters  
100 Edison Park Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Re: 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)  
"Health in All Policies" (HiAP)

Dear Chief Jones:

The October 3, 2023, briefing to the County Council regarding health included an update on the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) by Healthy Montgomery which recommended a follow-up called "Health in All Policies" (HiAP). HiAP is a "... collaborative approach that integrates and articulates health considerations into *policymaking across sectors* to improve the health of all communities and people" (emphasis added). For each criterion, the relevant county agencies are identified. Two of the criteria are "Access to Behavioral Health and Substance-Use Disorder Services" and wellness and active living which includes "pedestrian safety." In the summary presentation to the County Council neither of these criteria included a role for the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD). This surprised us.

MCPD plays a critical role in the county in the provision of behavioral health services in its response to 911 calls and collaboration with the county's crisis center. In addition, the MCPD plays a major role in the county's experience with substance use disorders in its enforcement of the law against impaired driving and the Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. How the MCPD chooses to use its authorities has profound impacts on the lives of persons with substance use disorders – on the nature of the drugs available in the illegal market, on the effectiveness of public health oriented "harm reduction" programs of the Maryland Department of Health, on entry into treatment programs, on hospital admissions, on the spread of infectious disease, and on who dies, is injured or suffers from a substance use disorder.

In addition, the CHNA identifies pedestrian safety as a wellness issue. The county Department of Transportation plays a major role in the design and construction of sidewalks,

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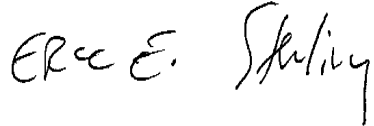
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crosswalks, and intersections. But certainly, MCPD activities such as traffic enforcement (either through a patrol officer or by automated means) and through the school crossing guard program are critical components of pedestrian safety.

The Advisory Commission on Policing would like to know the MCPD's view of its roles in the HiAP follow-up to the Community Health Needs Assessment.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric E. Sterling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric E. Sterling, Chair  
Advisory Commission on Policing

cc: Councilmembers