



## **POLICING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**To:** Chief Marcus Jones, Montgomery County Police Department  
Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy

**Cc:** County Executive Marc Elrich  
County Council President Tom Hucker  
Montgomery County Councilmembers

**From:** Policing Advisory Commission

**Date:** August 10, 2021

**Re:** Investigation of Ryan LeRoux Shooting

---

As you are aware, on July 16th, 2021, 21 year-old Ryan LeRoux was killed in a police-involved shooting at a McDonalds drive-through in Gaithersburg. The body camera footage that Chief Jones narrated during his press conference on July 27th, 2021 shows approximately 30 minutes of law enforcement officers' attempts to de-escalate the situation before the footage showed the officers opening fire. It has been confirmed that around 9:15 PM, the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) received a call regarding Ryan but that officers did not arrive at the McDonald's until approximately 10:28 PM. The edited body camera footage shows Ryan being asked to put his hands up by an officer via his cell phone and he responding that they were up. The footage does not make clear what behavior necessitated the subsequent use of force.

We know little about this tragedy because MCPD has yet to release the unedited camera footage or interview transcripts or summaries. With any such police-involved shooting, but particularly one which involves a fatality, there needs to be a full investigation – (1) to ensure that the Department has full information about whether the officers on the scene did or did not follow proper procedure, (2) whether the procedures themselves need reexamination, and (3) to assure the public that MCPD operates with transparency, accountability, and justice.

As the County's Police Advisory Commission, we are calling for the release of the unedited body camera footage. The purpose of the PAC, appointed in light of the murder of George Floyd, is specifically to help Montgomery County address disproportionate policing of Black and Brown people and particularly excessive use of force. The communities that we represent are horrified again by this incident, as Ryan's death is the fourth such fatal incident involving our county police in the last two years. We believe it is meaningful that the Commission includes representatives of the MCPD



## **POLICING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

and hope that they will work to ensure that the unedited body camera footage is made available to the public.

In light of this incident and the subsequent press conference, we are asking you the following:

1. It is our understanding that this call was initially deemed a low priority. If so, why was that and how did a low priority call lead to a fatality before the complete complement of negotiators and crisis team members could be deployed?
2. How has MCPD planned and organized to respond to calls such as this where a person's behavior indicates a mental health crisis?
3. What are the current barriers that prevent MCPD from providing more information to the public about the incident and particularly the release of the raw body camera footage?
4. What is the estimated time frame for the Howard County State's Attorney to complete its investigation and for the findings to be released to the public?

We are all residents of Montgomery County and proud to serve on the PAC. Without pre-judging this case, we believe deeply that MCPD can and must do better to protect the lives of those us who come to their attention. We believe we all agree that when the public perceives it is subject to disproportionate policing there is a consequent loss of trust in law enforcement that undermines both law enforcement effectiveness and the imperative that the government provide equal justice under law. Your prompt and complete replies will support public safety and help build public trust in Montgomery County law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Montgomery County Policing Advisory Commission