

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Faraq, Susan](#)
Subject: PAC Public Comment Form [#28]
Date: Sunday, January 8, 2023 12:21:39 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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What district in Montgomery County do you live in? If you do not know, please see the [County District Map](#) *

Question/Comment for the Policing Advisory Commission *

VERBATUM STATEMENTS FROM PAC'S REPORT:

"Moreover, Black drivers are stopped, searched, and cited at higher rates than white drivers, and Latinx drivers are stopped and given "warnings" more frequently than white drivers. Despite the persistence of these racial/ethnic disparities over the course of several years, MCPD has undertaken no studies to assess possible bias and offers little more than anecdotal "hunches" to explain these differences."

QUESTION: During "stops", how is the race and ethnicity of the driver determined? Do the citation and police reports have requirement to report race and ethnicity?

COMMENT: Black (capital B) Latinx (capital L) white (small w). ??

VERBATUM STATEMENTS FROM PAC'S REPORT: " In communities whose members are stopped often, there is a strong belief that MCPD is targeting its members because of racial or ethnic bias. The PAC received a significant number of statements from citizens complaining about what they saw as over-zealous or inappropriately targeted traffic enforcement."

QUESTIONS: What documentation supports the statement that there is a "strong belief". Also, how many SPECIFICALLY are "a significant number of statements?"

VERBATUM STATEMENTS FROM PAC'S REPORT: "MCPD written response to PAC questions. For example, in the 2020 MCPD Annual Report, police describe at considerable length the laudable efforts of the Holiday Task-force. However, MCPD provides no evidence of the impact of the Taskforce on accidents and deaths, or on the rate of drunk driving. MCPD Annual Report 2020 pp 22-23"

QUESTION How are officers able to determine race and ethnicity in order to "report" statistics. Race and ethnicity does not appear on current Maryland Drivers' License. Is it routine for officers to ASK those stopped and then record their answer? And on what document is the verbal information, from the stopped driver, recorded?

VERBATUM STATEMENTS FROM PAC'S REPORT:

"F4. Equal enforcement: . Equal enforcement of traffic regulations must be a primary requirement for

MCPD. All drivers should be treated equally and fairly. However, as national studies have shown, there is overwhelming evidence that bias in traffic stops is a problem.⁵

⁵ See among many other sources, Pierson, E., Simoiu, C., Overgoor, J. et al. A large-scale analysis of racial disparities in police stops across the United States. Nat Hum Behav 4, 736–745 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0858-1>. This examined 100 million stops and found a range of biased behaviors for stops and searches."

QUESTION: What is the logic used to compare NATIONAL data as a basis for suppositions of "biased behaviors" made by Montgomery County officers?

VERBATUM STATEMENTS FROM PAC'S REPORT:

"Takoma Park PD has in recent years made significant changes to strategy and tactics, making a conscious effort to reduce the number of stops, and declining to make stops for less serious violations."

COMMENT: Also, Takoma Park's successes, while laudable, they do not reflect the population, traffic, or race and ethnicity of the entire Montgomery County, and therefore, caution should be required to overlap Takoma Park's "significant changes" as a possible strategy into Montgomery County's future. Successes in whatever jurisdiction are valuable, but only as informational studies which may or may not be applicable to Montgomery County's environment.

COMMENT: E-mail notification of the January 9th meeting was received January 7th. January 8th and 9th were Saturday and Sunday, leaving little time to formulate comments.

Thanks to all the members of the Commission for all they do in our behalf. Donna Dolan, Kensington