

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Faraq, Susan](#)
Subject: PAC Public Comment Form [#41]
Date: Monday, January 9, 2023 2:32:26 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Organizational Affiliation, if any	none
What district in Montgomery County do you live in? If you do not know, please see the County District Map *	District 6

Question/Comment for the Policing Advisory Commission *

I do not want to speak publicly, but I am submitting the following written comments:
Montgomery County, Md, one of the most populous counties in Maryland is reflected by the horrible traffic, parking issues, housing overcrowding, and lack of enforcement in neighborhood parking and speeding, and other such nightmares occurring in our communities. I reviewed the report and agreed with the recommendation of the resurgence of community policing. Having police substations in neighborhoods where police are out in the neighborhood may cut down on some of the issues affecting communities. It will also allow the police to get to know the residents of the neighborhoods, participate in community events and maybe have a different outlook on the racial make-up of the residents they are hired to protect. The escalating events occurring in our communities that require their intervention may be lessened. Through the years, I have seen a withdrawal and reduction of police sponsored services and programs that positively impacted young adults and youth in the communities. For example, Good Hope had a thriving afterschool program for youth in that neighborhood, but I am not sure it still exists.

One of the second issues, is the unrealistic expectations of forced racial bias training. You can spend all the money in the world to have officers sit in a classroom to hear the Equity officer complete training modules, but officers must want to change their attitudes about their biases. As your report noted, we are all biased. As an African American woman, I am disheartened by the stats on "Driving while Black" but sitting in trainings is not the sole answer. Look at the community complaints about officers and take them seriously, partner those particularly problematic officers with an officer of another ethnic group that does not have a high ratio of only pulling over Black and Hispanic people and recognize that bias in traffic enforcement is just scratching the surface within the department. Next, look at the amount of community responsibility that is placed on your officers. They are the first in line called for anything that happens on the street, in a business, home or community, etc. Dole some of their responsibilities out to other agencies. Add other professional disciplines to your 911 call center who are cross trained to know when to send a call to 311, the Crisis Center, Aging and Disability Services or Child Protective Services. Start a new initiative with Social Workers, Behavioral Health, 311 personnel, etc to be co-located to take public calls so every call does not generate a police cruiser on the scene. Not all calls need a police officer, maybe a Behavioral Health employee can de-escalate a situation. It is expected that the police enforce traffic violations and respond in dangerous situations, but why do they have to come out to shoot an injured deer or sit on the side of the road for road construction? The park police, or sheriff's office can shoot an

injured deer. The demand for police officer intervention seems overwhelming and not necessarily needed for every incident, which creates individual animosity, a reduction in talented employees, and poor attitudes amongst your ranks.

My specific neighborhood is experiencing the problems and trauma of transitioning from a suburban, residential neighborhood to an urban blight. Our street/neighborhood has seen a huge increase in on street parking by owners of service vans, unpermitted residents from a neighboring apartment complex, numerous renters of houses that do not accommodate all work and personal vehicles, and homeowners renting rooms to multiple individuals with multiple cars. In addition, we have elderly neighbors being accosted while getting off the bus walking home, and then there is the Anti-Semitism being experienced. The neighborhood is reaching a simmering crisis level of conflict. Therefore, I suggest and appeal to you to bring back a strong community policing program. We see police parked at synagogues in our neighborhood who may communicate with those members, but who else are they interacting with in that same community? Respectfully submitted.
