

Testimony of Mr. Miguel Oliveros for The Policing Advisory Commission (PAC) on Monday, June 14th at 6:30 pm

Good afternoon everyone and thank you to the members of the Commission for allowing me to share my experience.

My name is Miguel Oliveros and I am a Montgomery County resident.

I want to share a testimony of how important was in my life the Citizen Academy for the Hispanic community.

I am originally from Peru and I came to this country 6 years ago and the first thing I did was look for community associations to establish links.

Through a Hispanic friend, the first place I found was the training of the citizenship academy for the Hispanic community.

They instructed me in everything related to the work of our police in the community such as domestic violence, crime, criminal drugs, gangs and things like that.

After graduating from classes, I began attending monthly graduate meetings. It was there that I met many important people from local government agencies and different community associations.

I will only mention some of those that I belong to and I did it thanks to the apprenticeship I went to in the Citizen Academy.

I have been volunteering for over 4 years in a program called Truancy Prevention Program that comes from State Attorney's office John McCarthy, in this program we go to MCPS schools and talk to students about illegal drug use And how important is the education for their lives.

I belong to the Maryland first Responders group and have worked there for almost two years as a volunteer, I was working hard during the pandemic.

A year ago I graduated as a chaplain and it is a great organization that helps youth and adults in hospitals, prisons and anywhere spiritual support is required.

I am a Spanish-speaking community leader and I talk a lot with young people to avoid and/or minimize the use of illegal drugs.

During the time of my volunteering, I met people who had problems with drugs, I gave them the necessary information, they communicated with the police and there was a very positive change in them and in their environment.

None of this would have been possible had it not been for the presence of Spanish-speaking police officers and the Montgomery County Citizens Academy.

Please, we need more Spanish-speaking officers to avoid and / or minimize the use of illegal drugs in our County, I am undocumented, a business owner, parent and volunteer who will always be at the service of the community.

Thanks for your time.