

Promoting Youth Engagement for Enhanced Police Accountability

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Police Accountability Board Overview

The Montgomery County Police Accountability Board was established in 2022 to address growing community concerns regarding public safety and police misconduct

The PAB's Role and Responsibilities

- Work with law enforcement agencies to review and provide policy advice
- Report disciplinary matters from public complaints
- Hold quarterly meetings with directors of law enforcement agencies

Juvenile Citations Disproportionate Affect on Communities of Color

- Black children constituted only 20% of the youth population in the County
 - They accounted for **54%** of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) referrals
- Latinx/Other children accounted for 43% of the youth population in the County
 - They accounted for **33%** of DJS referrals
- White children accounted for 37% of the youth population
 - They accounted for **20%** of DJS referrals



Why Youth Engagement with Policing Matters



Enhance Public Safety



Reduce Crime, Victimization, and Recidivism Rates



Foster Trust Between Young Individuals and Law Enforcement Agencies

Local Organizations with Youth Engagement

- Young People for Progress (YPP)
- Montgomery County Police Explorer Program
- Policing Advisory Commission (PAC)



Policing Advisory Commission

Virtual Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 14



Key Findings

1. Absence of youth representation on the current Board
2. Youth attendance at PAB meetings is limited
3. Lack of Awareness about the PAB
4. The PAB and the PAC both serve a unique purpose in promoting police accountability



The PAB's first community wide feedback session

Recommendation #1: Partner with local Maryland colleges to select two students studying or currently residing in Montgomery County to occupy two youth seats on the Board



- Having two youth seats will avoid tokenism, increase diversity of opinion, and make it easier for additional youth engagement
- To further incentivize participation, the youth representatives should receive a stipend or a scholarship applicable to their tuition expenses

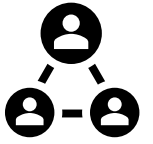
Recommendation #2: Restructure the PAC to focus primarily on community building and engaging with grassroots organizations



PAC should:

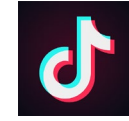
- Place greater emphasis on hands-on programming, particularly regarding youth engagement
- Conduct focus groups involving youth residents who have had encounters with law enforcement officers
- Collaborate with the PAB to facilitate community programming that brings together officers and youth residents

Recommendation #3: Ensure the PAB and the PAC are accessible to the public and are consistently collaborating with each other



- The PAB and the PAC should actively recruit youth participation by distributing marketing materials in schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and recreational centers
- Essential for the PAB to host quarterly meetings with the PAC to address emerging trends or policy recommendations that can enhance police accountability and promote community trust

Recommendation #4: Increase social media presence and ensure transparency between members of the Board and the public



- Work with youth Board members to increase social media presence
- Publicize current events, policies, and initiatives to spread awareness and engage youth from various demographics

“Diverse boards better reflect the communities they serve, they benefit from a wider variety of life experiences, they encourage accountability, and they offer a healthy challenge to the status quo”

A group of seven young adults, four men and three women, are posing for a photo in a room. Two individuals are seated in the front row on a dark wooden bench, while the other five are standing behind them. The group is diverse in age and ethnicity. The background consists of a light-colored wall with a corkboard. The corkboard is covered with numerous colorful sticky notes in shades of blue, yellow, and red, some of which contain handwritten text. Two large, hand-drawn cloud shapes are also visible on the wall, one of which contains a drawing of a building. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The overall atmosphere is casual and collaborative.

Thank you!

