My name is Sahib Singh and I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I am a recent graduate from the University of Maryland and currently working for Prison Fellowship. I was born and raised in different parts of Montgomery County where I was able to develop an understanding of the disproportionate realities that students face within the school system according factors including their race and socioeconomic status. Growing up in Silver Spring and Wheaton, it was evident that the concept of community policing was essentially nonexistent when considering the public perception and interactions with the Montgomery County Police Departments. I was surrounded by POC and came from an Indian background myself. As a child, I had always noticed adults around my environment reinforcing the concept of avoiding and staying cautious of police officers. This wasn’t based on the fact that anyone around us was doing anything wrong. We were law-abiding citizens who simply recognized the traumatic historical relationship between the police department and POC; we just truly understand how racism impacts our community today. The harsh reality is that the foundation of the United States was built upon slavery and the oppression of POC. We live in a society that has traditionally criminalized its colored citizens at a severe rate based on flawed judgement and racial biases. Kwamena Ocran, a 24-year-old Montgomery County RESIDENT, was MURDERED by the Montgomery County Police Department around 1 mile away from Gaithersburg High School. It is fundamentally flawed that MCPS disregards the experiences and traumas that its colored students face while exercising their right to an education. If police officers on the street are not properly trained to de-escalate situations without resorting to a violent and inhumane approach, what makes you think that police officers in school would do any better? There is statistically 0 evidence that asserts there being a positive correlation between having police officers in schools and a reduction in crime. All the school system is doing is intimidating, criminalizing and traumatizing its students by having police presence in schools. Resources could be better allocated in actually developing a community policing strategy in which our county finally develops trust in our police department. It is time to have some accountability within our county and focus on an approach that empowers our youth rather than criminalizing them.