

# POLICE:



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## Why are they in MCPS schools?

# Purpose of the SRO Program

Specific duties and responsibilities of SROs in schools:

- ✗ Traffic safety/enforcement
- ✗ Enhance school safety
- ✗ Assist with emergency/safety preparedness drills
- ✗ Monitor & support investigation of gang activity

SROs are **explicitly prohibited** from enforcing:

- ✗ MCPS policies
- ✗ Rules
- ✗ Regulations and/or procedures

# **Purpose of the SRO Program**

School Resource Officers (SROs) is an outreach program sponsored by:

**MoCo Police (MCP)**

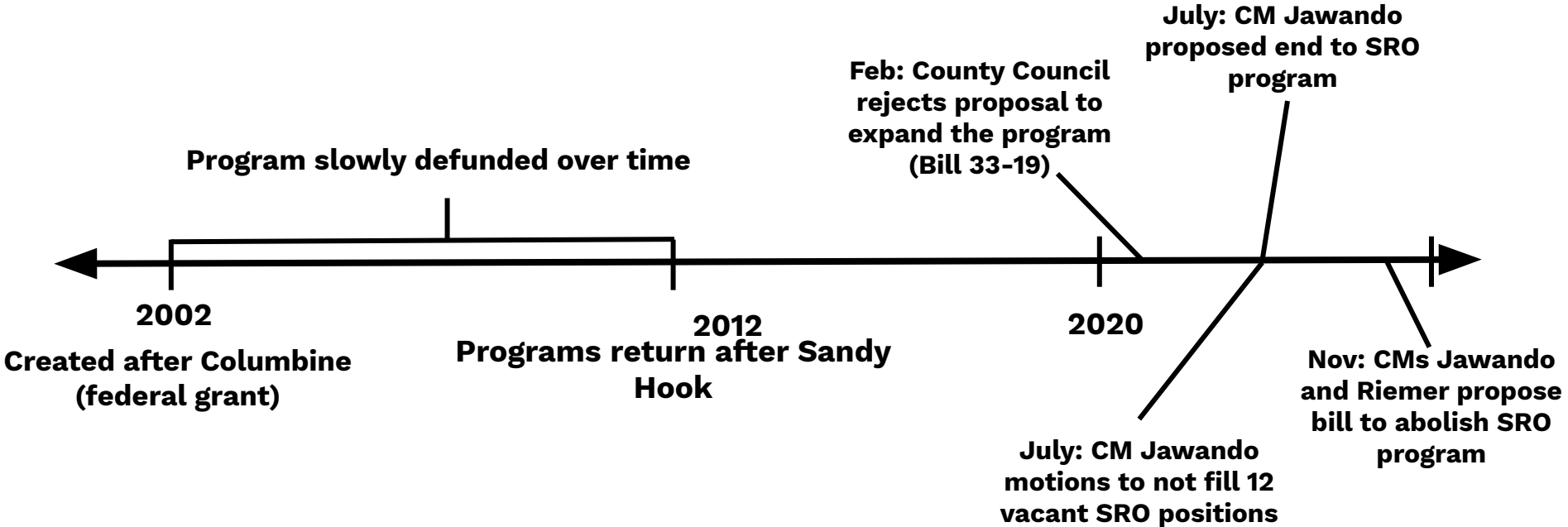
**Gaithersburg City Police (GPD)**

**Rockville City Police (RCP)**

**And the MoCo Sheriff's Office (MCSO)**

in partnership with MCPS.

# Why Was the SRO Program Implemented in Schools?



# Effects of SROs on MCPS Students

- ✗ Students of color are overwhelmingly targeted by SROs
  - ✗ Students with disabilities are disproportionately affected by SROs
  - ✗ SROs in schools increase the amount of extreme punitive measures used against students
- In 2018 - 2019:
- ✗ Black students made up **45%** of school arrests, despite being **22%** of the student population.
  - ✗ Students with IEPs made up **25%** of school arrests, despite being 12% of the student population.
  - ✗ **19%** of school arrests were for conflicts between students not involving weapons.

The student arrest rate in Montgomery County is **322 per 10,000** enrolled students, which is *more than double* the national average.

With officers in school, minority students are *hyper-criminalized* and at a far greater risk for *extreme and unnecessary punishments* than others. To avoid normalizing this abuse of authority on students, *we need police out of schools.*

# Testimony from MCPS Students



*I have been pulled over by police because of the way I look [Hispanic] 6 times this year. They let two vans of K-9 dogs on me with ten cars because I was driving at night. I didn't do nothing wrong but be brown. Police pulled a gun on me when I was 15. I was fishing and it got cold. I put my hands in my pockets waiting for a taxi. I turn around and some cop has a gun pointed at me. He thought I had a gun. I was just cold. So no they don't make me safe. **They make me feel the opposite.** Then I gotta see them in my school the next day. **How you think that makes me feel?** I want to stay away."*

- J.S. (current MCPS HS student)





*I stay away. You know what I'm saying, Miss! I'm black, I'm Dominican, I'm like 7 feet tall with the orange hair. I know they see me. I got to protect myself.*  
***They don't make any people like me feel safe."***

- A.N. (current MCPS HS Student)

# Common Myths and Misconceptions About SROs

# “SROs Help with Drug Usage, Gang Violence, and School Shootings”

In a 2018 study of 200 incidents of gun violence on school campuses, **only twice** did an SRO successfully intervene.

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Officers are legally **not required** to protect students.

*Warren v. District of Columbia* (1981)

*Scot Peterson Case (Parkland Shooting)*

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There is **no evidence** of successful gang recruitment intervention, only anecdotes.

# “SROs are a Necessary Form of Protection”

MCPS elementary schools do not have SROs, but ONSET

On-Site Emergency Team

- ✗ School-based team of teachers and administrators

There are infrastructure programs in MoCo that extend beyond SROs

- ✗ Security assistants
- ✗ Security team leaders
- ✗ Cluster security coordinators
- ✗ Security patrollers and monitors

Other city school systems have ended their SRO programs.

- ✗ Minneapolis
- ✗ Portland
- ✗ Denver
- ✗ Seattle

## A little more info....

I (Udy Mbanaso) am apart of YPP (Young People for Progress) and the I am asking you to support Councilmember Jawando and Reimer's proposal to remove police from schools.

The reason I ask of this is that we could invest the money that you spend on funding the police force and police in schools on, say the emergency responders, or restorative justice, and rather than punishing misdemeanors, try finding the reason behind it.. Also, police do not, I repeat do not belong in a learning environment. People with guns are very threatening and *does not* make me feel safe as a minority. Students of color and students with disabilities have a higher probability of being targeted. Despite black students only making up **22%** of the student population, they make up about **45%** of the arrests and are **275% more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts** (as you saw in the slides) Students with IEP's make up **25%** of the arrest while only being **12%** of the student population. Also, **19%** of the arrests were for conflicts involving students without weapons. I think the problem is that from the police view, for example, people with disabilities are viewed as "dangerous," when really all they need is good support. It's the same thing for students that act out or cause problems. That Is exactly why MOCO should invest the budget into maybe counselors, or people who are trained to respond to emergencies. They should also add more psychologists because the ratio of students to counselors should be around 600:1 when it's like 1300:1 at the moment

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