

this is so mis-guided, I cannot believe an elected official would even propose it. Perhaps the focus should be on continued better training for the police to avoid racial profiling or bias in traffic stops, rather than throwing out the baby with the bathwater. The recent benefits of traffic stops have been highlighted by the Chief of Police, and I agree with his response to this proposal.

One of the duties, as I recall from my driver's education, of a responsible driver is to maintain a safe vehicle, as well as one that is properly registered. Folks should be pulled over for burned out headlights, tag lights, brake lights. This is basic safety equipment. Having a properly registered vehicle is also "safe". It means the car is insured. Folks today are skirting laws by using "Historic Plates" on cars they drive on a daily basis, and thus avoid having these vehicles pass the state inspection, and this puts others at risk. In my long history of driving, I have been pulled over for "safety checks". While inconvenient, I was okay with it, because at a minimum, it bought the hazard to my attention, or forced me to fix the issue.

I have watched with dismay as police seem less inclined to enforce traffic laws. I watch motorcycles cut in between cars at stop lights, and then proceed thru the red lights, folks blatantly ignoring No U Turn signs, jaywalking, etc. (how much have we spent on "barriers" to try to force folks to safely cross?) Illegal parking during rush hour goes unenforced, yet we place police in upscale neighborhoods to enforce the rush hour rules against short cuts. I am guessing that one of the unseen costs, if such laws are passed, is an increase in auto insurance rates.

I also know that the traffic and crime situation in Montgomery County is growing. Now is NOT the time to relax enforcement of the law.

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