

The last time I testified about this topic before the county council **Ike Leggett** was council president, yes, it was a long time ago. Then, like today, folks were accusing the cops of being racist. At that time, it was racism because too many people of color were getting tickets for running red lights. It was a massive movement and I testified before a packed house as a member of the Police Advisory Board in Bethesda/Chevy Chase.

I told the councilmembers then that, yes, I've been stopped by the cops a long time ago when I was young, and **I was driving while white**. They asked if they could search my car and I said yes, they found marijuana and arrested me. And yes, **they put me in jail**. Of course, it was a difficult time, but it did not ruin my life.

When you're stopped by the cops be respectful, as respectful of them as you would want them to be respectful of you. **Treat them with dignity**. The cops are not racist, former Chief **Charles Moose** was not racist, former Chief **Carol Mehrling** was not racist, current Chief **Marcus Jones** is not racist, they have a tough job to do, with little support and still all the cops would take a bullet for you if they needed to. They'll even come out late at night and change a flat tire for an entitled council woman, without being racist.

After my many activities here in Montgomery County, today I am the chairman of the Republican party, a party that was founded to stop racism in its tracks.

We need to support the police, every black and brown community, every immigrant community, every low income, and high-income community wants the protection of the police department. Instead, the cops are constantly met with hatred and challenge after challenge by their own government. We can't attract enough recruits to the vacancies we have because **the officers-to-be don't trust the county government** to stand up for them.

I support the cops, I back the blue, we need more good cops not more regulations to bind their hands. I know there are politicians that feel they can garner a great deal of support by screaming racism and getting votes that way. Don't buy into that, **do what's best for the whole county, and stop disrespecting the police**.

Dennis Melby