



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

**COUNCILMEMBER LAURIE-ANNE SAYLES**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**AT LARGE**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

January 26, 2024

TO: County Executive Marc Elrich  
FROM: Laurie-Anne Sayles, Councilmember  
SUBJECT: Funding for Youth Safety Programs

According to Police Chief Marcus Jones, there was a [more than 300% increase](#) in juvenile violent crime arrests from Fiscal Year 2022 to 2023. Furthermore, the number of young violent crime victims grew more than 200%, with 215 in FY22 and 679 in FY23. In the FY24 Operating Budget, the Council Approved \$672,699 in funds to reduce juvenile crime. While this is an essential investment in our youth, youth safety issues are more complex than just juvenile crime, and our response should adequately reflect that. Hence, I am advocating for \$500,000 in additional funding in the upcoming FY25 Operating Budget for programs that target youth crime and increase youth safety.

The Attorney General for the District of Columbia recently launched their [Leaders of Tomorrow program](#), which aims to utilize grant programs to reduce youth violence. The program focuses on six categories: Academic Achievement and Workforce Readiness, Youth and Family Support, Trauma-Informed Services, Conflict and Dispute Resolution, Meaningful Engagement, and Mental Health and Wellbeing. While many of these categories include programs across several departments in Montgomery County, the organized and coordinated response in the District of Columbia is something we should strive for in our county.

I would like to thank you for your recent special appropriation for an additional \$96,000 to hire a contractor to comprehensively address youth safety challenges across county departments. While this is an essential and much-needed step, our response to this problem must be equally comprehensive, well-funded, and well-coordinated. As such, I'm requesting an additional \$500,000 to address the root causes of juvenile delinquency, including truancy, drug use, youth

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violence, mental health, social pressures, and crime, and further engage youth in positive and productive opportunities.

By appropriating an additional \$500,000 in funds, we can better coordinate and promote youth safety interventions. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I welcome the opportunity to partner with you and my colleagues on this vital initiative.

Copy to:

Members of the County Council  
Marlene Michaelson