



**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*



**Darren M. Popkin**  
*Sheriff*

**Office of the Sheriff**  
**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
Thursday, November 10, 2022  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Minutes**

Present: Debbie Feinstein, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Tom Manion, Vice Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Tondalayo Royster (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Jessica Volz (Adventist Healthcare); Lavontte Chapmon (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (Community Member); Mindy Thiel (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Ingrid Gonzalez (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County);

Guests: Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); Colleen Bokman (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Cheryl Chado (Ayuda); Jennifer Russel (Member of the Public); Lisa Mandel Trupp (Office of Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz); Leslie Hawes (Court Watch Montgomery); Captain Gerald McFarland (Montgomery County Police Department)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting**

Debbie Feinstein reviewed guidelines for virtual meeting participation. She asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. Debbie Feinstein asked the participants to use the chat function if they would like to speak and to use the raise hand function. She also requested that participants should identify themselves each time they speak.

**III. Approval of September Minutes**

The September 8, 2022 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Tom Manion proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Katz and passed.

**IV. New Members**

Debbie Feinstein welcomed new members to the DVCC. Assistant Chief Nicholas

Augustine will represent the Montgomery County Police Department. Amy Palumbo is moving from a community member to the non-profit seat. Kendall Stanley is a new community member and Aanika Arjumand is the new student member.

## **V. DVCC Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

Smita Varia facilitated the elections for Chair and Vice Chair for 2-year terms. The members voted and Tom Manion will be Chair of the Council and Jessica Volz will be Vice Chair from 2023-2025.

## **VI. Announcements**

Smita Varia announced all voting members need to take the Open Meetings Act training and sign some administrative forms. She will follow up via email with each member. She also announced that if any new or old member would like a tour of the FJC, to contact her. Debbie Feinstein congratulated Leslie Hawes and Court Watch Montgomery for their event in October.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Maura Lynch, Chair**

Debbie Feinstein announced that the language for the Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense bill has not been finalized. Once it is, Smita Varia will send it out and there will be vote via email to support the bill and send a letter on behalf of the Council. Debbie Feinstein will also be circulating information about other bills addressing domestic violence to the Council Members.

### **B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair**

Tom Manion announced that the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project is expanding their services to Montgomery County and will be joining the FJC as an onsite partner to provide legal services to clients. The Victim Services Committee is continuing to think of ways to onboard more attorneys to take protective order cases. Maura Lynch will begin holding Expungement Clinics to help clients getting records expunged or shielded in order for them to be able to apply for further public assistance.

### **C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair**

Debbie shared that October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month was very successful. The "Walk in their Shoes" displays were posted at all public libraries and recreation centers. The displays were also at all Police District Stations and a few government agencies. All stories are posted in English and Spanish here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/dvcc/dvam.html>.

There was a press event at the beginning of the month where survivor Cheryl Kravitz shared her story and Sheriff Popkin, Chief Jones, State's Attorney McCarthy, Councilmember Albornoz and Councilmember Katz and Debbie Feinstein spoke. NBC 4, WMAL Radio, WTOP, MyMCMedia, DC News Now, MoCo Show and Bethesda Magazine covered the event.

Debbie also asked all those in attendance to please save the date: RespectFest is April 16th from 1-4 pm at the Wheaton Recreation Center. If anyone would like to be on the planning committee, please contact Smita Varia.

### **D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – Vacant, Chair**

There is no update at this time.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Debbie Feinstein, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

**The next DVCC meeting will be on January 12, 2022, 5pm-7pm**



**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**