



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ANDREW FRIEDSON
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 1

CHAIR, PLANNING, HOUSING AND PARKS COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2026

TO: Hon. Marc Elrich, County Executive
Hon. Grace Rivera-Oven, President, Montgomery County Board of Education
Dr. Thomas Taylor, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools
Hon. Marc Yamada, Chief, Montgomery County Police Department

FROM: Councilmember Andrew Friedson 

SUBJECT: Keeping Our Schools Safe

Thank you for your participation and thoughtful engagement during the April 21 School Safety briefing at the County Council. While it was insightful to hear about the collaboration between departments, it shed light on ways we need to do better to keep our community, and especially our children, safe. The current program has led to confusion and inconsistency regarding the expectations of the Community Engagement Officer (CEO). A permanently assigned officer on-site allows for relationship-building with students as a community policing best practice to help prevent major incidents and ensures immediate response in the event when they occur. Recent major incidents and last week's briefing further reinforce ongoing concern about whether the changes made in 2021 to the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program in response to efforts to defund the program have served the community's needs and kept our students, educators, and community safe.

Following Tuesday's briefing, I am formally requesting that Montgomery County Police and Montgomery County Public Schools convene and develop a strategy to permanently assign sworn law enforcement officers on-site in every MCPS High School (as was the case prior to the 2021 changes) and an additional officer dedicated to the cluster to enhance public safety at middle and elementary schools. As you revisit this issue, it is important to reinforce and ensure that police officers are intended to serve public safety needs and to proactively build relationships with students and therefore should not be involved in school discipline.

I further request continued engagement and collaboration with community stakeholders, partner law enforcement agencies and municipalities currently involved in the CEO/SRO program, including Rockville Police, Gaithersburg Police, Park Police and the Sheriff's Department.

We have no greater responsibility than protecting our kids and our communities. By proactively leveraging resources instead of relying solely on a reactive response to school security issues, we can build on the existing coordination among law enforcement agencies, County municipalities and MCPS to mitigate confusion and inconsistency in the implementation of the current approach, and most importantly, create a safer, more secure school environment for every student, educator, staff member, and family.

cc Rich Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer, Montgomery County
Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Montgomery County
Natali Fani-Gonzalez, President, Montgomery County Council
Sidney Katz, Chair, Public Safety Committee, Montgomery County Council
Will Jawando, Chair, Education & Culture Committee, Montgomery County Council
Max Uy, Sheriff, Montgomery County
Marcus Jones, Chief Safety Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools
Lakeisha Robinson, Chief, Maryland National-Capital Park Police
Jason West, Chief, Rockville City Police Department
Shawn Eastman, Chief, Gaithersburg Police Department
Doug Prouty, Analyst, Montgomery County Council
Susan Farag, Analyst, Montgomery County Council
Kristin Cummings, Analyst, Montgomery County Council
Nicole Rodriguez-Hernandez, Analyst, Montgomery County Council