



ADVISORY COMMISSION ON POLICING

March 17, 2026

The Honorable John McCarthy
State's Attorney, Montgomery County
50 Maryland Avenue
5th Floor, North Tower
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Follow up request regarding public safety statistics

Dear State's Attorney McCarthy:

This is a follow up to the letter that the Montgomery County Advisory Commission on Policing (ACP) sent you in October 2025.¹ The purpose of that letter was and remains to resolve the apparent discrepancy between the figures you cited at a public forum on March 10, 2025, and the figures we have from the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD). Since we have yet to receive a response to our letter, we are compelled to reiterate our request.

Shared facts in public discussion are essential for establishing a common foundation, allowing for informed decision-making, problem-solving, and meaningful debate. Conversely, conflicting facts foster misinformed perspectives and hinder the constructive conversation needed to build public consensus around pragmatic approaches to public safety challenges.

At the March 2025 forum, you said that 80% of the firearms recovered by Montgomery County were the result of vehicular consent searches.² However, the information we have from the Maryland County Police Department (MCPD) indicates that the proportion of firearms recovered as a result of vehicular consent searches is about one percent of all

¹ [See previous correspondence](#)

² [See video of March 2025 forum](#)

firearms recovered and 18 percent of firearms recovered during traffic stops.³

At a subsequent public forum held in September of last year, a member of the public asked whether the ACP agreed with what you had said at the March 2025 forum. Rather than express public disagreement with the estimate you cited, we opted to ask you first for clarification. Our objective is to better understand what you said and resolve any possible misunderstandings about MCPD statistics.

We hope you agree that accurate information is essential for an informed public conversation on policing, and we look forward to receiving your response soon.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brian Bellamy
Chair, Advisory Commission on Policing

CC: County Council

³ In recent years, the number of firearms taken off the streets in Montgomery County from all sources, including turn-ins and through other agencies, ranged from a low of 826 and a high of 1,245. In 2023, the last full year before MCPD revised its consent search policy, the number was 1,010. [Page 44, Montgomery County Police Department, 2024 Annual Report on Crime and Safety](#). In 2023, MCPD reported 73 Firearm Offenses from Traffic Incidents. [Page 2, Farag, Susan J., Briefing: Montgomery County Police Department – Consent Search Policy, December 9, 2024](#). MCPD reports that 13 guns were recovered as a result of nine vehicular consent searches in 2023. [Pages 5-6, Police Accountability Board \(PAB\) Meeting Minutes, Freedom to Leave Act Meeting, July 2, 2024](#).