



STATE'S ATTORNEY
JOHN J. MCCARTHY

State's Attorney for Montgomery County

50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

240-777-7300
FAX 240-777-7413
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV/SAO

DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEYS
PETER A. FEENEY
RYAN S. WECHSLER

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Reverend Brian Bellamy
Chair, Advisory Commission on Policing
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Reverend Bellamy,

Your question relates to testimony I gave twelve months ago. While your question relates to a Montgomery County hearing, many of the same issues were raised relative to State legislation, then pending in Annapolis.

As a result of questions raised at the State level, I had my office conduct a case-by-case study of guns recovered from cars as a result of consent searches and the odor of marijuana. That study revealed that seventy-seven percent (77%) of guns seized from cars in the immediately preceding twelve months fit that criteria.

As I noted in my testimony, public safety is always my primary concern, and removing illegally possessed guns from the community was my primary concern then and now.

Further, as I noted in my testimony, the entire encounter during a traffic stop is captured on body-worn camera. I have a full-time Circuit Court judge and law professor from American University Law School who teaches constitutional law at the police academy. I fully support the constitutional protections afforded to every citizen. I have a staff of eleven employees who regularly monitor body-worn camera footage of police encounters that result in arrest or citation.

Sincerely,

John J. McCarthy
State's Attorney for
Montgomery County, Maryland