



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

May 9, 2024

Advisory Commission on Policing
Reverend Dr. Brian Odem Bellamy, Chair
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Chair Bellamy,

Thank you for writing to the County Council to request guidance on the Commission's (ACP) work over the next year. Your email has been distributed to all Councilmembers, and I am happy to respond on the Council's behalf.

The Council recognizes the great value the ACP provides in all its policing research and recommendations, but particularly values your ability to seek input from the community at large, to better understand how residents, workers, and visitors envision policing. The prior ACP's recommendations about MCPD's data management were always of interest to the Council. We look forward to maintaining the close partnership between our respective bodies and benefiting from the insights of both new and continuing members. We continue to seek data-driven solutions that provide fair, effective, and equitable policing to the community. The work of the ACP is imperative to meeting these goals. In particular, the Council would find it helpful if the ACP would give special attention to the following priorities:

-Continue to review the Department's ability to collect, analyze, and use data in its work to provide effective, responsive, and equitable policing;

-Proactively seek out community input from a diverse group of community members, to focus on those who live and work in areas disproportionately impacted by crime and policing. Seeking their input would help the Council to better understand how residents feel about public safety and desires and expectations for policing in their communities;

-Provide an analysis and any recommendations on all pending legislation that impacts police. This work should bear both that communities of color have been historically overpoliced, but also that these same communities are disproportionately victims of crime and have a real need for effective public safety services;

-Work with the Police Department to better understand how certain aspects of police reform have been working, specifically focusing on the State Police Accountability Act of 2021. While the Department has implemented all State mandates, we would appreciate your input to help us understand if the changes are working as effectively as they should.

Please know the Council is here to provide any support and assistance you need to carry out the work of the Commission. Thank you for the work you are undertaking on behalf of the County Council and our community at large. Your commitment to this work is valuable and very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Friedson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Friedson
Montgomery County Council President