



ADVISORY COMMISSION ON POLICING

October 13, 2025

The Honorable Kate Stewart, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: MCPD Reporting Requirements of Sec. 35-6A(c) of the Montgomery County

Dear President Stewart and Members of the County Council:

Pursuant to the charter of the Advisory Commission on Policing (ACP), this letter provides the Commission's advice regarding the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) reporting requirements of Sec. 35-6A(c) of the Montgomery County.¹

Community Survey: We recommend that the County Council amend Sec. 35-6A(d) *Annual survey* of the Montgomery County Code by eliminating the requirement that MCPD *"annually conduct an anonymous survey of residents and officers regarding police-community relations, including, at a minimum, the levels of trust communities have in the police."*²

We agree that community surveys are essential to objectively evaluate the MCPD's constitutional policing practices, the effectiveness of its Community Policing strategy, and the community's satisfaction with MCPD services. But no funding has been provided for this survey for the fiscal years 2024 through 2026. We also believe that MCPD should not be put in the position of evaluating how the community perceives it. To ensure impartiality and effectiveness, such a survey should be conducted either under the auspices of the County Executive or the Council, or by an independent polling entity contracted by the County. A low-cost alternative would be to include relevant questions in the Public Safety portion of the annual the National Community Survey "livability" survey.³

Timing and Consolidation of Mandatory Reports: We recommend that the Council amend subparagraph 1 of Sec. 35-6A(c) *Reporting Requirements* of the Montgomery County Code by changing the due date of the mandatory reporting requirements from February 1 to April 15. We also encourage consolidating into one report

¹ See Montgomery Code, Sec. 35-6, Advisory Commission on Policing, as well as Sec. 35-6A (c), Reporting requirements

² See Montgomery Code, Sec. 35-6A, Community Policing, paragraph (d) Annual Survey.

³ See 2024 National Community Survey at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/survey2024.html>. We note that previous surveys delved more deeply into public service matters. See 2021 National Community Survey at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/countystat/qls.html>

Advisory Commission on Policing

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and making public the data currently published in MCPD's annual *Police Statistical Data Report* and *Annual Report on Crime and Safety*.

The February 1 deadline does not allow the department sufficient opportunity to cull and verify the calendar year's data, resulting in an annual *Police Statistical Data Report* that contains imperfect data that conflicts with the more accurate data included in subsequent MCPD reports.⁴ In turn, the conflicting data generates unnecessary confusion, hinders Council oversight, and undermines efforts to promote MCPD transparency with the public. An April 15 due date would give MCPD time to ensure that it has culled and verified as correct the mandatory reporting data, eliminating conflicting data, and facilitating transparency. The data required under Sec. 35-6A(c) *Reporting Requirements* of the Montgomery County Code is reported to the County's Executive and Council in the *Police Statistical Data Report*, but it is not published publicly. This data is not particularly sensitive and much of it is published publicly in MCPD's *Annual Report on Crime and Safety*. Therefore, consolidating these two reports would reduce duplication of effort and waste, as well as promote confidence in the data provided by MCPD.

Data on Crime Victims: We urge the Council amend Sec. 35-6A(c) *Reporting Requirements* of the Montgomery County Code to add disaggregated demographic data on crime victims to the required data sets of the annual *Police Statistical Data Report* and the *Annual Report on Crime and Safety*.

Demographic data on crime victims is necessary to evaluate the services provided by MCPD to the sectors of our community most impacted by crime and police practices. As the Law Enforcement for All (ELEFA) audit of the police department noted, such data is essential "for understanding crime trends across demographic groups and for informing public policy decisions."⁵ This added requirement should not impose an additional burden on MCPD, as Council staff reports that MCPD has readily provided victimization data on multiple occasion upon request, but it is not included in the required data that MCPD must report to the County's Executive and Council.

Uniformity of Demographic Data: We recommend that the Council require MCPD to report racial and ethnic demographic data uniformly with the Census and Maryland's *Race-Based Traffic Stop Data Dashboard*, i.e.: Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, and Other. Currently, MCPD's *Annual Report on Crime and Safety* reports racial and ethnic data separately, which is confusing and understates the impact of certain police practices on underprivileged members of our community.

We hope you find this letter useful. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Rev. Brian Bellamy, Chair

CC: County Council
 CAO Richard Madaleno
 ACAO Dr. Earl Stoddard
 MCPD Chief Marc Yamada
 Dawn Luedtke, Chair, Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

⁴ See <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/data/crime-reports.html>

⁵ See page 38, Effective Law Enforcement for All (ELEFA) Review of the Montgomery County, MD Police Department (MCPD), 2022, at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rps/Resources/Files/reports/ELEFA-MCPD-FullReport-v7.pdf>