



Fraternal Order of Police
Montgomery County Lodge 35

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Sidney Katz, Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

President Katz,

FOP Lodge 35, which represents over 1400 active and retired Montgomery County Law Enforcement Officers, supports Bill 24-20, Administration - Police - Assistant Chiefs of Police with amendments. Lodge 35 has always favored a non-sworn leadership position in the police department, if the individual has experience, education, and training in criminal justice. Lodge 35 does not support adding another Assistant chief position in the police department while the council advocated for a continuity of services budget. Lodge 35 believes the non-sworn Assistant Chief position should replace one of the current four sworn Assistant Chiefs positions.

The Council could amend Bill 24-20 to have a current sworn assistance chief's position converted to a non-sworn position. Assistant Chief Ronald Smith will be leaving county service on May 1, 2021, converting his position would allow the creation of this position to take effect in FY21 while also saving the county nearly \$50,000.

While the Council continues to find new ways to reshape our police department, Council members must be mindful of the impact to the budget. Adding another executive position while the rank and file police officers receive no increase in pay, is inconsistent with the Council and Executives goal to reduce the cost of government.

Lodge 35 continues to promote sensible and considerate changes to policing, while also respecting the hard-working men and women of the Montgomery County Police Department.

Respectfully,

Lee G. Holland
Corporate Vice President
FOP Lodge 35