

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH ON BILL 24-20, ADMINISTRATION - POLICE - ASSISTANT CHIEFS OF POLICE

To the Public Safety Committee, good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to proposed bill 24-20, creation of a Civilian Assistant Chief of Police non-merit position. The Montgomery County Police Department is in full support of the proposed position submitted by County Executive Marc Elrich. This position will oversee the newly proposed Community Resources Bureau which will become the 5th bureau for the police department. The new bureau will be comprised of the Community Engagement Division, Public Information Office and the Policy and Planning Division. This Assistant Chief of Police will be expected to enhance community policing through their leadership, focus on improving the trust between the community and the police, especially during this time in our county's history as well as focus upon evidence based policing practices. The evidence based policing practices will provide a central focus on public safety issues in our communities that will support our legitimacy in policing model. The role of a civilian assistant chief is not new in our profession and there have been departments such as the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC and the Philadelphia Police Department to name a few who have utilized a civilian in this role.

As you all are aware, this is a component of the proposed reorganization plan to the County Executive and it will balance the span of control to provide greater supervision and accountability with the executive staff. This position will also create a framework for evolving needs of the community and department. As part of the proposed plan, I propose to move all the School Resource Officers under the Community Engagement Division for oversight by one director and will provide more stable supervision by their direct supervisors and training will be codified and centralized in one division. The Civilian Assistant Chief will also act as the liaison for the newly formed Police Advisory Commission. This role will also be extensive to include supporting the new legislation for racial equity and social justice. This

position will be a great addition to my senior executive team to carry out the mission and goals for the police department as well as the County Executive's agenda.

Thank you for your time and attention.