

**TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH
ON SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION \$550,000 TO SUPPORT A POLICE AUDIT,
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AUDIT, AND CONSULTING FUNDS FOR
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

July 21, 2020 – PUBLIC HEARING

Good afternoon Council President and Councilmembers, my name is Caroline Sturgis, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. I am here on behalf of the County Executive in support of Supplemental Appropriation of \$550,000 to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Office of the County Executive - to support a Police audit, Fire and Rescue Service audit, and consulting funds for community engagement support:

- The funds will support the County's Reimagining Public Safety work, which includes a focus on racial equity and social justice.
- \$200,000 will support a comprehensive, including racial bias, audit of the Police Department. The audit will assess the MCPD hiring, training, promotion, and evaluations policies and procedures. Assess the impact of enforcement operations (policing practices) through application of laws on historically marginalized and discriminated against populations, particularly the African-American and Latinx communities.
- \$200,000 will support an audit of the Fire and Rescue Service Department. The audit will evaluate the size and structure of the department as it relates to operations and community need, including use of overtime and details, and other resource deployment issues to ensure equity and efficiency. The audit will also look at diversity within the department, including hiring, training and promotional practices and workplace culture.
- \$150,000 will support the work of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, a workgroup of County and community representatives, organized to develop recommendations for the County Executive and County Council by January 2021. This coordinated effort between government and communities will rethink and reshape how County may deliver services in a more equitable manner. The Reimagining Public Safety Task will work in tandem with the police audit through community engagement but will also reimagine County response to health and social services that have been addressed by Police, such as crisis response mechanism for mental health, homelessness, child welfare, youth diversion, domestic violence, etc.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical work.